

American HUNTER

December 2015

BREAK IN CASE
OF EMERGENCY

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2016

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American HUNTER

December 2015

**HOW TO
TAG A BUCK
AFTER
OPENING DAY**

NRA Official Journal of the Nation

Ducks Aplenty

**The Draw
Of Arkansas'
Grand Prairie**

**Eastern
Tactics for
Coyotes
Anywhere**

**Trust Your
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TESTED:

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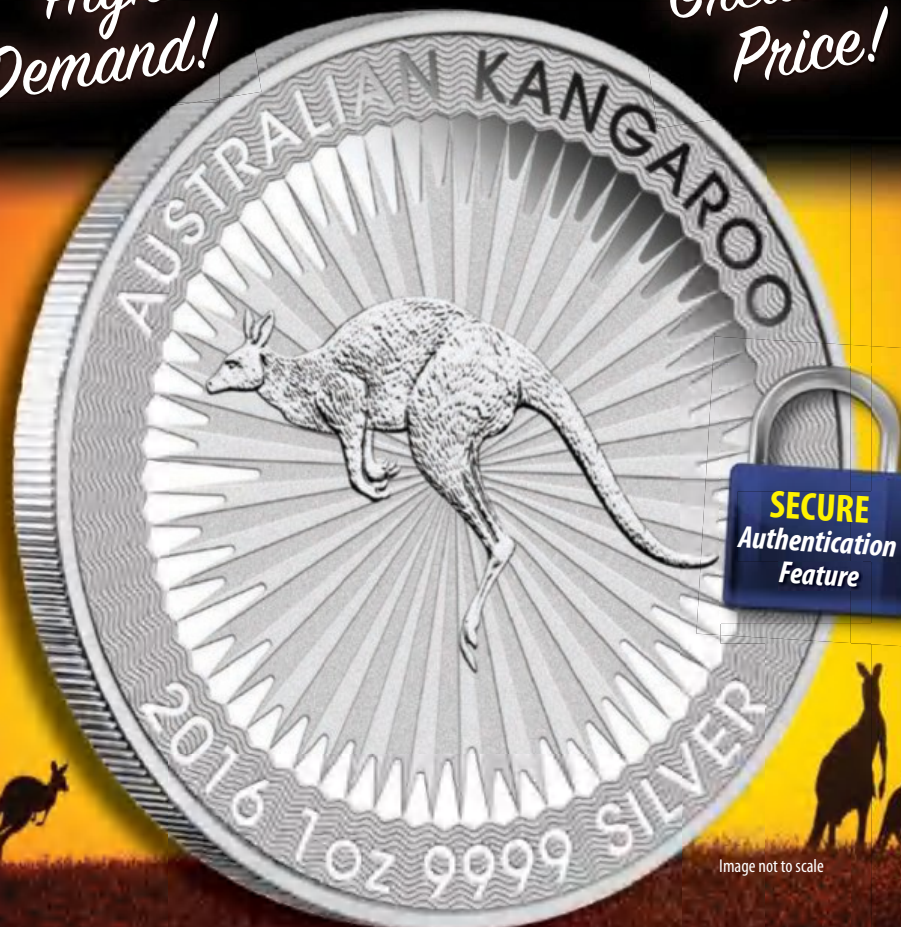


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Wayne R. LaPierre,
Executive Vice President



Meadow of Wings

The Grand Prairie of Arkansas has a storied history of rice and waterfowl, and tradition runs deep in the flooded timber of Wingmead farm. Perhaps the only thing higher than the sheer number of ducks here is the level of commitment to preserving the experience. **By J. Scott Olmsted 50**

How the East is Won

Wile E. Coyote’s middle name might as well be Eastern, as he can seem almost impossible to outsmart in that half of the United States. Predator hunters in the East have learned to be just as cunning, though, and their new approaches will give you an edge in any part of the country. **By Mark Kayser 60**

Home-Schooled

There’s no Yellow Brick Road to giant bucks on the author’s Kansas farm—but sometimes there are acorns. Eight years of hard lessons on the oak ridges have taught him to follow the food, and his hunches, to find the deer. **By Craig Boddington 68**

SPECIAL REPORTS

State of Play

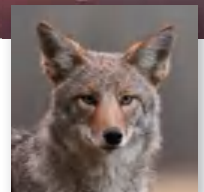
While media outlets remain distracted by the ongoing spectacle of the extended primary season, don’t take your eyes off the legislative contests that are happening closer to home. **By Chris W. Cox 18**

Freedom’s on Fire

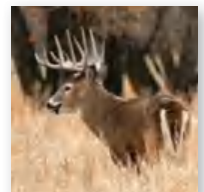
There’s a raging fire burning in American politics right now, and your Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms is quietly being shredded and used as kindling. **By Wayne LaPierre 44**

Safeguarding Our Children, Investing in Our Future

An NRA-backed team of security experts trains the first class of school-security assessors as part of the National School Shield program. **By Laurie A. Luebbert 86**



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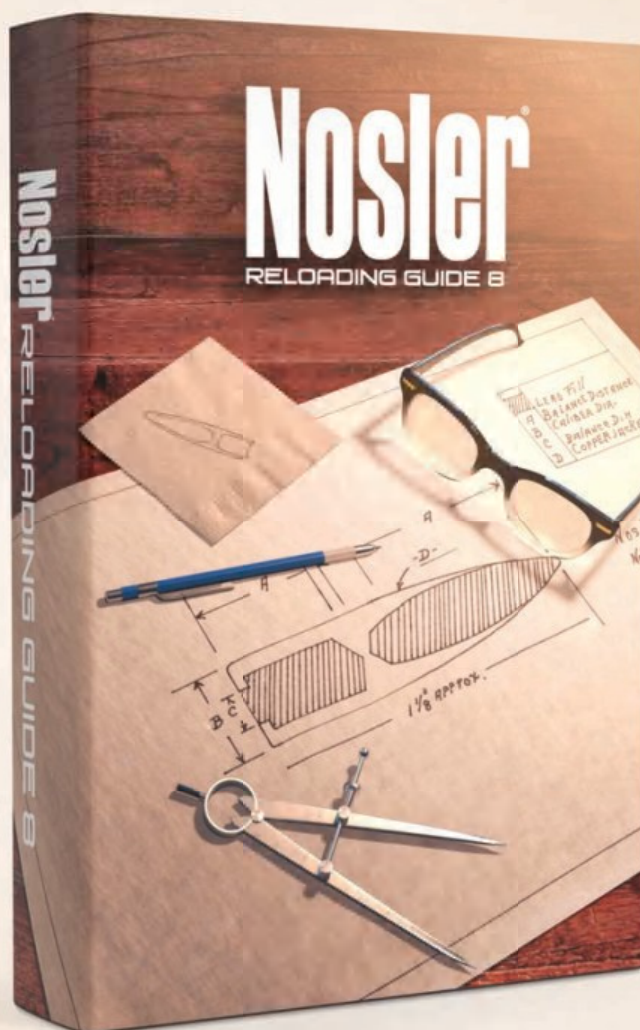


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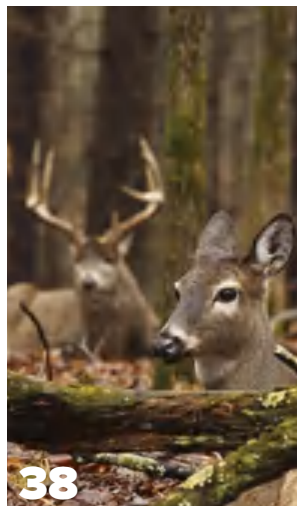


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Standing Guard

12 Hillary and other Democratic candidates embrace Obama's call for gun confiscation. **By Wayne LaPierre**

President's Column

14 A new big lie is gaining traction in the mainstream media as "stolen guns" are becoming a guilt trip applied to peaceable gun owners. **By Allan D. Cors**

Political Report

16 Anti-gun groups and politicians have long used tragedies to try to advance their agenda—regardless of the facts involved. By exploiting tragedy to push gun control, they deflect the conversation away from real solutions. **By Chris W. Cox**

First Light

24 Illegal marijuana is a growing problem on public hunting lands. A helicopter ride-along with a California marijuana eradication team shows just how prevalent—and harmful—cultivated cannabis can be in wild areas. **By James Swan**

Know-How

38 Opening day has come and gone, and you still have a buck tag. Hunt longer and smarter by following these four tips for the rest of the season. **By Frank Miniter**



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The Ducks Unlimited Tribute to Waterfowl Shotgun

The migration of North American waterfowl is among the most beautiful and awe-inspiring spectacles in all of nature. It's not uncommon to see large flocks of geese overhead, as they gracefully move through the sky. It's a sight that always stirs a special feeling, and reminds us a change of seasons is in the works.

Through the tireless efforts of Ducks Unlimited, leader in wetlands conservation, our knowledge and respect for the preservation of North American waterfowl has grown dramatically over the years. Their results have been extremely successful, and so today, outdoorsmen and wildlife lovers alike are able to continue to enjoy the grace and beauty of America's abundant waterfowl.

If you're a waterfowler, you certainly know and appreciate the many accomplishments of Ducks Unlimited. Because of their work, generations of sportsmen have been able to enjoy the waterfowling experience. Each year they can count on waterfowl flying south in the fall and returning north in the spring. For the waterfowl hunter, the fall migration is an experience that is anticipated for weeks, even months in advance.

Now, America Remembers and Ducks Unlimited are pleased to announce the **Ducks Unlimited Tribute to Waterfowl Shotgun**, an exclusive Tribute honoring North America's magnificent waterfowl and Ducks Unlimited's unmatched role as the leader in wetlands conservation. Since Ducks Unlimited's founding in 1937, they have become the world's largest private waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization and have contributed to the conservation of more than 13 million acres of prime wildlife habitat across North America. They are a volunteer-based non-profit organization with more than 647,000 dedicated members, and one mission: to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl.

For this Tribute, we've selected the Browning Silver Hunter™ auto-loading 12-gauge shotgun. The Silver Hunter™ maintains Browning's legendary reputation for quality-built firearms and is a trusted favorite among countless American sportsmen. Craftsmen commissioned specifically for this project by America Remembers adorn each of these handsome Tributes with artwork in stunning 24-karat gold and nickel, and a blackened patinaed background to highlight the remarkable details. The Tribute exquisitely captures some of America's favorite waterfowl species on a classic shotgun.

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The Ducks Unlimited Tribute to Waterfowl Shotgun will be the envy of many an outdoorsman and collector, but only 300 will have the opportunity to own one. Send us your reservation today, or call us toll-free at **1-800-682-2291** so that we may prioritize your order. We will arrange delivery of your working Tribute through a licensed firearms dealer of your choice. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with your Tribute after personal inspection, you may return it to us in original unfired condition within 30 days for a complete and courteous refund.



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▼ The right side features a close-up image of a mallard framed with cattails and reeds. The center image features a banner reading "Leader in Wetlands Conservation" below a scene of waterfowl in flight, including a wigeon, a pair of mallards, and a Canada goose. To the far right, the familiar DU logo is featured.



▲ The left side of the receiver features a pair of mallards in flight, a gadwall, a wigeon, and a green-winged teal with banners reading "Ducks Unlimited" and "Tribute to Waterfowl" framing the scene. A pair of Canada geese are also displayed. Canada geese mate for life, and this pair is spending time together in the water. Both sides feature scrollwork capturing the natural wetland habitat of waterfowl, including cattails and reeds.

► The Tribute's rich walnut stocks complement the elegant 24-karat gold and the cool brushed nickel of the receiver.

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Dog-Gone Pheasants

I have made nine trips in the last 17 years to the pheasant Mecca of the world, South Dakota. The majority of the hunts were without the benefit of dogs. Most of our hunts were around Winner. As stated in the article ("Hunting Dog-Gone Pheasants," October), getting birds up is not a problem but locating downed birds in thick CRP grass can be. I hunted in groups from two to eight hunters. We had a triangulation system that worked fairly well: When a hunter in the party downed a bird, the other hunters who saw the bird drop pointed to where they saw it land. The shooter then walked in a straight line to the marked bird. The other hunters who marked the bird's location would call out, "Right there!" If the shooter could not find the bird quickly, other hunters closed in and joined the search.

Donald Kay, Wind Gap, Pa.

BREAK IN! I can relate to Wayne Van Zwoll about the theft of his guns ("Break In!" "First Light," October). My elderly parents were similarly victimized in 2009 when three heroin-crazed thugs broke into their rural home in the middle of the night and pillaged Dad's collection of vintage Winchesters. Unfortunately, my parents were there and were needlessly, senselessly and severely beaten, and left for dead. Miraculously, they regained consciousness and summoned help. Both were hospitalized, but they survived. Thankfully, all three criminals were brought to justice and are serving lengthy prison terms. Dad's guns, however, were never recovered. Worse though, Mom was never again comfortable in

her home. After Dad's recent passing, she sold the house and 40 acres where she lived for 50 years and raised nine children. Seemingly, some things just cannot be repaired or replaced.

Matthew Kohler, Gibsonburg, Ohio

While what prompted Wayne Van Zwoll to write "Break In!" is deeply unfortunate, it led to the publishing of some important words: "[A]nger is destructive. Losing your charity to a gang of thieves, you become just a little like them." Bravo, Mr. Van Zwoll, for recognizing the need to interrupt the destructive cycle. If only more people in our troubled world were a little like you.

G.F. Hohenberger, Putnam County, N.Y.

Stand Burnout

"Deer Stand Burnout: Can You Avoid It?" (October) was very well written, as well as being very educational, for me, personally. I have one question about the article: The author made note about the proper placement of the blind. Through the entire piece, Mr. Durkin emphasized the importance of entering and leaving the blind. However, careful re-reading of the article did not reveal any information of how to properly travel to and/or leave the blind so as not to spook the deer and contribute to "deer stand burnout." **RG Simer**, via email

Mr. Simer, there a couple of things to keep in mind. First, mind the wind. It does no good to sit all evening if, when you leave the area, the wind blows your scent to deer staging beneath you on a hillside, for instance. If that occurs, you can't very well count on seeing deer there in the future. Check the weather forecast: If wind will ruin your chances, including your entry and exit, at a particular stand on a given day, hunt another location with conditions favorable to you. Another thing you can do: Have a partner drop you off and pick you up, whether it's in a truck, ATV or tractor. In farm country, it's not uncommon for deer to tolerate farm machinery; they seem to be less skittish around it, mainly because they have dealt with it all their lives. In that case, a partner pulling up to your blind and picking you up does not alarm deer so much; they may whiff human scent, but if they associate it with farm work they're less apt to spook for fear of a hunter on foot.—JSO

NRA Hunter's Code of Ethics **1.** I will consider myself an invited guest of the landowner, seeking his permission, and so conducting myself that I may be welcome in the future. **2.** I will obey the rules of safe gun handling, and will courteously but firmly insist that others who hunt with me do the same. **3.** I will obey all game laws and regulations and will insist that my companions do likewise. **4.** I will do my best to acquire those marksmanship skills which ensure clean, sportsmanlike kills. **5.** I will support conservation efforts which can ensure good hunting for future generations of Americans. **6.** I will pass along to younger hunters the attitudes and skills essential to a true outdoor sportsman.



In "First Light" this month, we tell the compelling story of Matt Nellessen, an Army veteran and NRA member who in September found himself face-to-face with a trio of wolves while scouting deer in Wisconsin (p. 32). Nellessen's story is fascinating ... and a little scary. If not for his military and firearm experience, he said, he might not have survived.

Best I can tell, this is the second wolf attack on a human in the Lower 48 in five years. Yes, other, fatal attacks have occurred in Canada and Alaska, where wolves are more plentiful. But in the Lower 48? Supposedly, there's nothing to fear from this endangered species. We like the idea of them, too, but ...

To his credit, Nellessen does not blame the animals; he was the one who stumbled into their home, he said. The fact is wolves are here to stay in the Lower 48, and the more their populations grow the more we can expect these predators to test us. His experience is a prime example of the Second Amendment in action. Thanks to this right that is first among equals, Nellessen was able to carry a pistol on his scouting trip and use it to defend himself.

After you read the story on these pages, log on to AmericanHunter.org and read our exclusive comprehensive coverage about the whole event. Then be thankful you're an NRA member who has access to the most readily available firearm training in the nation, the very reason your Association was founded in 1871.

J. Scott Olmsted
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Score two for one armed citizen. A Dayton, Ohio, woman who has been targeted by criminals multiple times has used a gun to protect herself twice. The latest incident occurred in September, when the 46-year-old fatally shot a man who broke into her home in the wee hours of the morning. At about 3 a.m. one day, she called 911 to report that someone had tried breaking in through a first-floor window. Security bars there kept him out; however, the man then climbed to the second story and broke through another window. The woman hid in the bathroom and shot the intruder when he came in after her. The wounded man jumped from the second story and fled, but he was found dead nearby. The same homeowner wounded a home invader in 2013. An investigation of the latest case is ongoing. (*Dayton Daily News*, Dayton, Ohio, 9/10/15)

Luck ran out for a thief who was involved in a spree of car burglaries in Fayetteville, Ark. One would-be victim held the suspect at gunpoint after the armed citizen caught the bad guy in the act of breaking into his car. The suspect later confessed to multiple vehicle break-ins in the area. (KNWA, Fayetteville, Ark., 9/7/15)

Pierre Phurcien has carried concealed for the past eight years. Recently, that practice came in handy when a would-be thief entered the Lehigh Acres, Fla., grocery store Phurcien owns. "I saw a guy with a mask, and I was thinking it was a kid playing," Phurcien told media afterward. Pretty soon, he found out it was no game. "He came right here, and he pulled a gun and said, 'Give me the money,'" Phurcien said. "Then I pulled my gun, and ... he starts to run away." Lee County deputies were still looking for the suspect. (NBC2, Fort Myers, Fla., 9/14/15)

Two Nashville, Tenn., football fans were bidding each other farewell outside the home where they had just watched the Titans game on TV. As they were talking, a Jeep Cherokee pulled up in front of the house. One man got out of the Jeep, pointed a gun at the victims and demanded their valuables. An accomplice collected the goods and drove off in the Jeep. The gunman, meanwhile, had grabbed the car keys from one of the victims and was getting into that car to flee. One of the victims

then pulled his own gun and told the robber to stop. The bad guy opened fire, but the victim got off a fatal shot in self-defense. Police are still looking for the man who drove off in the Jeep and any other passengers. (*The Tennessean*, Nashville, Tenn., 8/24/15)

Quick thinking by a Kwik Shop clerk prevented a robbery. A masked man with a gun entered the convenience store in Wauconda, Ill., and demanded money from the clerk and a customer. The employee, though, retrieved a gun that was in the store for defensive purposes and shot the intruder multiple times. Although authorities took the suspect to a medical center for treatment, the wounds proved to be fatal. The robber was later identified as a parolee who had several robbery and drug convictions in his past. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, Chicago, Ill., 8/25/15)

A Hartford, Conn., man with a licensed handgun got the better of two home invasion suspects. The homeowner was returning to his house late one night. As he walked to the door, he was approached by two

strangers, one of whom had a gun. The bad guys forced the man to open the door. After all three got inside, a struggle ensued, according to police Sgt. Reginald Early. During the scuffle, the homeowner grabbed his firearm from where it was stored and shot both suspects. One was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital; the other arrived at the medical facility on his own. Police said the resident won't be charged as he was protecting himself and his family. (*Hartford Courant*, Hartford, Conn., 9/6/15)

When Ontario, Calif., police responded to a call about a man with a gun, they were surprised to find an elderly homeowner who was holding a suspect at gunpoint. The man and his wife had been awakened one night by the sound of someone trying to break into their home. The homeowner grabbed his shotgun and chased the would-be burglar across the street. When the bad guy turned and threatened him, the older man fired a shot, prompting someone to call 911. The suspect was held at gunpoint until police arrived. (*Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*, Ontario, Calif., 9/1/15) **ah**

If you have a firsthand "Armed Citizen" experience, call NRA-ILA PR/Communications at (703) 267-1193.

Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts. Send clippings via e-mail to armedcitizen@nrahq.org, or by mail to "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. For bonus features, visit "The Armed Citizen Blog" at americanrifleman.org. **View this column online at nrapublications.org.**

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By Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice President



Obama, Hillary Embrace Gun Confiscation

President Barack Obama once again embraced massive universal gun confiscation from innocent Americans as his answer to the isolated murderous acts of deranged mass killers. That call for gun confiscation was echoed by presidential candidate Hillary Clinton who said it is “worth considering” a national program modeled on Australia’s seizure of firearms from licensed gun-owners.

Their demand that law-abiding Americans be disarmed of their property and their individual liberty came immediately following the unspeakable act of a copy-cat loser who murdered nine students at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Ore., on Oct. 1, 2015. The murderer asked his victims if they were Christians, then killed them.

ours—Great Britain, Australia, countries like ours. So we know there are ways to prevent it,” he said.

In parroting this line, the media outlets leave out the details of what happened in those once-free nations: the massive taking and destruction of firearms from law-abiding gun owners by government. In 1996-97, after a mass murder in Australia, *licensed* gun owners were forced to give up their *registered* pump-action and semi-automatic shotguns and semi-automatic rifles for government destruction. Every model of pump-action and semi-automatic shotgun. Every model of semi-automatic rifle. Seized. Chopped. Burned and melted.

For what? To assuage an insane notion of collective guilt to impose a

and bus-stop benches.”

That “buyback” of all long guns was simply the first round of confiscations, falsely heralded as the means to end violence. In 2000, a second wave of confiscations took place with government seizing many models of registered handguns from licensed owners in the wake of another mass murder—and it isn’t over yet.

As the *Melbourne Weekly Times* reported in June 2015, “Government authorities are moving quickly to restrict the sale of all lever-action firearms in Australia ... which could lead to a buy-back of the thousands of lever-actions already owned by Australian shooters.” It will never end until the last firearm is removed from private hands.

In a Jan. 16, 2013, op-ed piece in *The New York Times*, titled “I Went After Guns, Obama Can Too,” former Australian Prime Minister John Howard ultimately defined the insanity of his government’s action:

“Penalizing decent, law-abiding citizens because of the criminal behavior of others seemed unfair, ... yet I felt there was no alternative.”

Howard reckoned that the guns the government took from those “decent, law-abiding citizens” and destroyed would be “the equivalent of 40 million guns in the United States.”

This is Obama’s demand for an Australian model on our soil.

The president’s end game has been embraced as mainstream in the media. Take the Oct. 4, 2015 *Washington Post* editorial—headlined “A gun-free society”—in which the paper’s editorial page editor, Fred Hiatt, declared: “Wouldn’t it make sense to learn from other developed nations, which believe that only the military and law enforcers, when necessary, should be armed. ...”

Hiatt seeks a “cultural shift,” saying,



The Democratic candidates would alter the makeup of the Supreme Court with the goal of overturning landmark decisions on the Second Amendment.

The killer had one thing in common with the last killer and the ones before him: he admired other mass-murderers and craved public attention.

Yet in Obama’s and Clinton’s upside-down world, the blame lies with the innocent—you and me.

In an unseemly “politicized” reaction to this horrendous crime, Obama repeated his big-lie mantra, saying: “The United States of America is the one advanced nation on Earth in which we do not have sufficient common-sense gun-safety laws—even in the face of repeated mass killings. ...”

“We know that other countries, in response to one mass shooting, have been able to craft laws that almost eliminate mass shootings. Friends of ours, allies of

national gun ban. The same agenda that Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton all espouse. The one that begins with “universal” background checks—which equals registration of guns and owners—and ultimately ends with gutting the Second Amendment.

Every time the Obama-Clinton axis lauds Australia’s theft of freedom from its law-abiding citizens, you must remind others of the defining comment from George’s Soros’ protégé, Rebecca Peters, who claimed credit for the Australian tyranny:

“The National Firearms Agreement recognized the inherent inappropriateness of these highly dangerous weapons and took away nearly 700,000 of them to be melted down into soup cans



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"Australia was a pioneer nation, too, and gave up its guns. Societies change, populations evolve."

Then he levels this zinger, "The Supreme Court, which has misread the Second Amendment in its recent decisions, would have to revisit the issue. The court has corrected itself before, and if public opinion shifts it could correct itself again. If it did not, the Constitution would have to be amended."

That last gem is the key to this out-in-the-open demand for the end of American liberty. Presidential Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton is explicit, saying, "We've got to go after this. And here again, the Supreme Court is wrong on the Second Amendment. And I am going to make that case every chance I get."

But Hillary is not alone. Virtually all of the candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination are in lock step with Hillary and Obama.

They would alter the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court with the goal of overturning the landmark decisions that have recognized the sanctity of the Second Amendment in guaranteeing our right to keep and bear arms.

None of the coy and disingenuous words from billionaire Michael Bloomberg or the Brady Campaign—words like "gun safety," or "responsible gun-ownership," or "common-sense regulations"—should fool free Americans about the gun banners' intentions: ultimate confiscation of guns, as in Australia.

The Washington Post's Hiatt said it all:

"Maybe it's time to start using the words that the NRA has turned into unmentionables.

"Prohibition.

"Mass buyback.

"A gun-free society.

"Let's say that one again: A gun-free society," he wrote.

Those words are the call to action for you, me and the nation's 100 million decent, law-abiding gun owners in the coming elections.

As NRA members, we are in the vanguard in this full-blown fight to preserve freedom. We must organize as never before and stand united in voting to save the Second Amendment in November 2016.

Wayne LaPierre

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president's column

By Allan D. Cors, President

Latest Anti-Gunner Tactic: Blame Law-abiding Gun Owners in Theft

"... [M]ost illegal guns are simply legal guns that have been stolen or sold second-hand. Since the supply source for the illegal market is legal owners, imposing greater accountability on legal owners will cut down the flow to the illegal market."

—Rebecca Peters

That definition of gun control—from the woman who fanned the fires for the 1996 confiscation and destruction of 700,000 registered shot-guns and rifles from law-abiding licensed owners in Australia—is now creeping into the Newspeak of journalists in our nation under the notion of "stolen guns."

A ranting blogger who deserves to remain anonymous nailed it: "The legal, responsible gun owner is mainly responsible for arming up the gangs of America." As crazy as this sounds, this new "big lie" is gaining traction in the mainstream media. "Stolen guns" is becoming a guilt trip applied to peaceable gun owners.

Numerous news stories tell the tale:

A *Chattanooga Times Free Press* piece—"ATF study: Criminals use stolen guns"—claims, "The majority of guns used by inner-city gang members in Chattanooga come from burglaries and car break-ins in surrounding counties."

Another—"Spike in firearm thefts putting guns in hands of criminals"—from KOMO-TV news in Seattle, reported that "more guns than ever are being stolen from homes, business and vehicles, putting firearms directly in the hands of criminals. And, law-enforcement officials say it's up to gun owners to stop that."

An Aug. 26, 2015, story from Georgia's WTOG-TV—"90 percent of violent crimes in Savannah involve stolen guns"—proclaims, "Police say the single greatest contributor to violent crime in Savannah includes everyone that owns a gun. ... [W]hen one of those guns gets stolen, chances are it will be used to commit a violent crime somewhere in the city."

Perhaps the most cogent example of this new theme was "Legal guns fuel criminal gunfire," published in September in the Raleigh, N.C., *News & Observer*.

Writer Ned Barnett begins, "Guns have blazed a bloody path through the news in recent weeks. ...

"For many gun rights supporters the answer to such mayhem is more guns. ...

"Their line is that if guns are outlawed only outlaws will have guns. But an Associated Press story that ran the day before the shooting on live TV raised a starkly different point. It said most guns used in crimes are stolen, but not from gun shops or pawn shops. They're stolen from homes and cars."

Barnett blustered, "The growing number of law-abiding Americans who feel compelled to arm themselves is feeding the flow to criminals. Perhaps the phrase should be revised: 'If guns are outlawed, outlaws would have a harder time finding and affording guns.'"

He cites as proof, "In Chicago, where gun violence is epidemic, authorities this year have seized close to 4,700 guns—nearly all of them stolen."

The only pro-gun-rights source quoted in his story says the blame lies not with victims of theft, but with the people who break into cars and then are put back on the street.

Barnett's retort is jaw-dropping:



"Long prison sentences for breaking into a car would be expensive and unfair, especially because there's no serious penalty for someone who leaves their Glock in the glove compartment and it gets into a criminal's hands."

Then he lays down another head-spinner, "The truth is more people legally arming themselves doesn't make us safer. It just provides more guns for criminals."

Claiming that "Gun owners are aware that the legal purchase of guns is the headwaters in the river of guns that flows to criminals," Barnett proposes "having gun owners be held responsible for their guns."

There is that gun-ban buzz word again, "responsibility." *Criminals*—not the victims—are responsible for crime.

All of this media focus on "stolen guns" is part of a big push for state and federal provisions making it a criminal act to fail to report theft or loss of a firearm. There are now eight states that have made failure to report a gun theft a crime. Along with this insanity, the state of California recently "reformed" its criminal statutes to reduce theft of a firearm to a misdemeanor.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), in line to lead his party in the Senate, has introduced legislation making failure to report a lost or stolen gun within 24 hours a federal felony punishable by five years in a federal prison. This from someone who ignores the truth and lies about federal laws dealing with armed criminals.

Schumer is one of the prime reasons that the coming 2016 elections are critical. If he ever becomes Senate majority leader, the gun-ban crowd's biggest champion will be in the ultimate seat of power. If that happens, if we lose our Second Amendment majority, gun owners will pay a heavy price.

Allan Cors

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political report

By Chris W. Cox, NRA-ILA Executive Director



Using Victims to Advance the Anti-Gun Agenda

Anti-gun groups and politicians have long used tragedies to try to advance their agenda. When a tragic event occurs, we can always count on them to hold press conferences and put forth so-called “solutions”—which are no more than their gun control wish list—often before the facts are even known. Even worse, the “solutions” that they put forward would not have stopped or even been a deterrent to the crime in question.

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The shocking murders of two Virginia journalists while they were conducting a live television interview displayed this callous strategy. Within hours of the crime, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe demanded what he called “common-sense gun legislation,” specifically calling for “universal” background checks. But when asked by the press if the murderer had passed a background check, McAuliffe said he didn’t know.

In fact, at the time of McAuliffe’s

statement, the identity of the perpetrator was still unknown, as was his motive. The type of gun used and the shooter’s method of acquiring it were also unknown—it would take more than a day for that information to come out.

And McAuliffe wasn’t alone.

Barack Obama’s White House and Hillary Clinton weighed in the same day with similar calls for gun control, also before knowing the facts involved.

McAuliffe, Clinton and Obama chose to exploit a violent tragedy to push their political agenda, plain and simple. And they did it with the willing assistance of the anti-gun media, which refused to call them on it because that agenda fits their shared gun control narrative.

The next day, the facts came to light. The deranged individual bought his gun legally, months before he used it, through a federally licensed dealer. He passed a background check because he had no prior criminal record, nor had he been adjudicated mentally ill or committed to a mental institution. The fact is that no piece of legislation pushed by gun control advocates would have stopped him from committing this brutal crime.

McAuliffe knows this, as does Clinton. The White House even admitted—later—that gun control legislation, including so-called “universal” background checks, would not have stopped this. But to them, that’s beside the point. They will use any tragedy as an excuse to push their agenda—regardless of the facts involved. What’s most egregious about it is that by exploiting tragedy to push gun control, they deflect the conversation away from real solutions that would solve our nation’s pressing problems—like fixing our broken mental health system.

And it’s not just politicians who use this craven strategy. Anti-gun groups, such as Michael Bloomberg’s

Everytown for Gun Safety, use the tactic to advance their anti-gun agenda and even raise money. Immediately after a tragedy, they push emotional appeals to promote their cause. Unfortunately, they offer no real solutions to the problems of violence in our communities—just the same old rhetoric, devoid of common sense, logic or even the smallest connection to reality.

The list of mass shooters who passed background checks includes the most recent tragedies in Roanoke, Va., Lafayette, La., Chattanooga, Tenn., and Charleston, S.C. Although our government has spent more than \$1 billion on the national background check system over the past two decades, it still lacks the criminal and mental health records on which it’s supposed to rely.

Most people rightly believe that it’s inappropriate to use a tragedy to push a political agenda moments after a tragedy occurs. But that doesn’t stop, or even slow down, proponents of gun control. As a matter of fact, that exact strategy was laid out in their 2012 guide “Preventing ‘Gun Violence’ Through Effective Messaging.”

In that guide, anti-gun advocates are directed to immediately hit television, Twitter, Facebook and other social media outlets with emotional pleas for more gun control as soon as tragedy strikes. Facts don’t matter; the only thing that matters is to advance their agenda.

If anti-gun politicians were really interested in solving problems, instead of using tragedies to push a political agenda, they would work to solve underlying issues. Of course, that would require them to admit that the “solutions” they prescribe are not solutions at all.

Chris W. Cox

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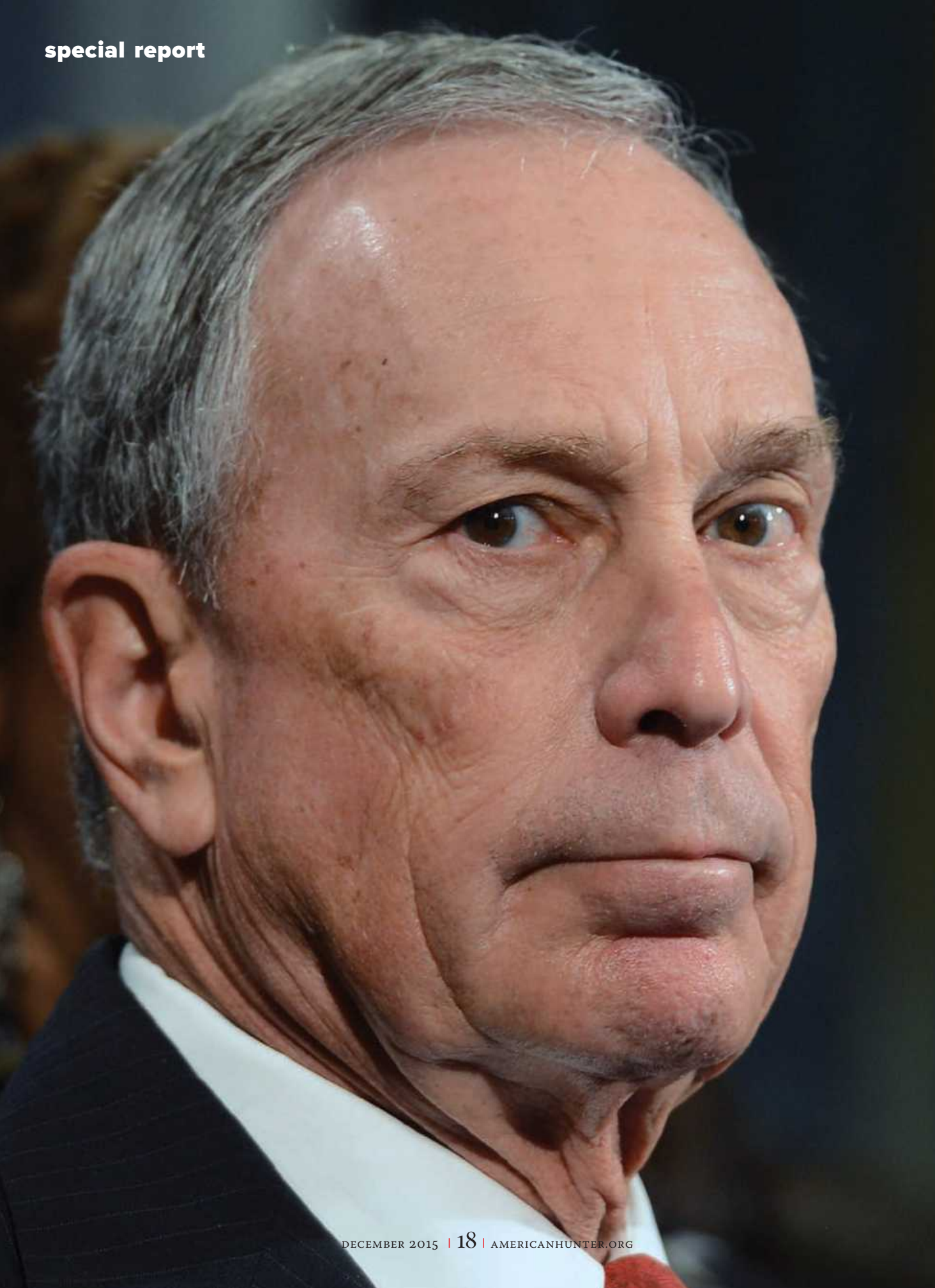
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By Chris W. Cox
NRA-ILA
Executive Director



State of Play

While the Presidential Primary Grabs Headlines, Hard Work Goes on in the States as Bloomberg Continues to Flex his Financial Muscle

The presidential election cycle keeps getting longer and more expensive. Nearly a year before Americans will finally cast their ballots, candidates already have come and gone, untold millions of dollars have been spent, and those in a crowded field of primary contenders are jockeying for media attention and name recognition.

On the Democratic side, the long-anticipated coronation of Hillary Clinton no longer seems so certain, as the FBI investigates whether her “unorthodox” email practices as secretary of state might have compromised sensitive national security information. Meanwhile, her declining poll numbers on honesty and trustworthiness have been worrying Democratic insiders. According to Quinnipiac University poll results released in August, “Liar” is the first word that comes to mind ... when voters think of Clinton.”

The Republican field remains crowded, with a diverse group fighting for the nomination. How long it will take for a clear leader to materialize is unknown.

What is at stake, however, is the very future of our nation.

When the final challengers from both parties emerge, we will provide all the information you need to make the right choices to ensure the continued strength of the Second Amendment. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, an anti-gun billionaire continues to cast an ominous shadow over American politics. Michael Bloomberg needs no introduction in these pages. Yet the degree to which he seeks to use his influence to undermine your rights cannot be overstated. Fellow dictatorial-minded moguls are urging him to run for president. Whether or not that happens, Bloomberg will be as involved in the political scene as any candidate. He has pledged his fortune to pursuing gun control, and in the motto of one of his many front groups, he will do “whatever it takes.” When you don’t have real grassroots support, money is what it takes in politics, and that alone ensures Bloomberg’s ability to attempt to exert his will.

Photo by Anthony Behar/Sipa USA/AP Images

Recently, I discussed how gun control proponents began retooling their legislative game plan in the wake of the stinging defeat Congress handed to Barack Obama's 2013 gun control agenda (see "The 'Security of a Free State'? Not If Bloomberg Has His Way" in the April 2015 issue of this magazine). As I mentioned in that article, they are looking to change the map one state at a time, hoping they will eventually achieve a tipping point that will allow them to pursue their ambitions on the federal level.

Even if you feel insulated in a pro-gun state for now, don't count on the status quo lasting forever. It takes work—difficult, unglamorous, little-noticed work—day in and day out at the state level to maintain our nation's heritage of freedom, and it takes work to enact the "fundamental transformation" the president has promised his followers. We at the NRA have known this for a long time. Now the opposition is getting wise. Count on them to take the battle to the states and seize the offensive. While media outlets remain distracted by the ongoing spectacle of the extended primary season, don't take your eyes off the legislative contests that are happening closer to home.

Not only is Bloomberg becoming smarter about arraying his forces, but his troops are showing more sophistication in marketing their prohibitionist agenda to the public. No longer do they speak of pursuing "gun control." Instead, they use the rhetoric of preventing "gun violence" (and violence is always attributed to the guns, never to the criminals who wield them) or what "responsible" gun ownership means. Besides using their mouthpieces in academia and the media, they exploit grieving survivors of violent crime, and they use them to ward off any criticism of their agenda or any level-headed discussion of the issues. Their objective is to obscure the issues. In case after case, none of the "solutions" presented would have made any difference.

Those "solutions," moreover, are not the gun control challenges of years past. Proposals to ban handguns are, for the most part, long gone, their fate sealed by the Supreme Court's historic *Heller* decision in 2008. Rather than push for gun bans, blatant registration schemes or confiscation programs, the gun control advocates of today are willing to settle for incremental victories.

But make no mistake, this is all part of a larger plan. Each measure that gets passed reinforces the false perception that guns *cause* violence and that more controls are needed on the law-abiding to rein in the lawless. What you and I call freedom, they refer to as loopholes. The burdens they would heap on lawful gun ownership are portrayed as "common sense" or "responsible" measures to "keep guns out of the wrong hands."

A few examples make the point. Bloomberg's gun control mothership—Everytown for Gun Safety—claims on its website, "Requiring a criminal background check for all gun sales is the single most effective policy for keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people and saving lives." Of course, they know that almost all of the perpetrators of the high-profile crimes they use to promote their policies successfully passed a background check. They also know that the more common types of thugs who have long records and roam the streets

with guns don't go through background checks to get them and *never will*.

But so-called "universal" background checks often poll well, because most respondents don't understand the issue. And, more to the point for Everytown, a truly universal background check system would set the stage for licensing and universal registration. It doesn't make sense to require background checks for private sales unless the authorities know who had the gun in the first place, so the lack of a registry will become just one more "loophole" that needs to be closed.

Another issue that's frequently invoked by gun control advo-

cates is keeping guns away from domestic abusers. Federal law, of course, already prohibits persons convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors or who are the subject of a domestic violence restraining order from possessing or receiving a firearm. But that's not enough, Bloomberg's troops say. Don't wait for a hearing, they say. Don't limit the misdemeanors to violent offenses. Don't limit the relationships that are considered "domestic." And for crying out loud, they insist, seize the guns right away. Make the "abusers" disprove the allegations against them if they want their firearms returned.

Meanwhile, while they're blaming the gun, what is the system doing about perpetrators of actual abuse? Are they being charged with, much less convicted of, felonies? Are they subject to detention so they don't violate protective orders?

Also in this category are so-called "safe storage" laws. Who, after all, could argue with safe gun storage? No one. That is why laws aren't needed to ensure that it remains the nearly universal practice of responsible gun owners (who, of course, are the only targets of such laws). The people I know who own guns are good citizens, love their families and want to protect their investments in firearms. They don't need the threat of punishment to secure their guns appropriately when not being used.

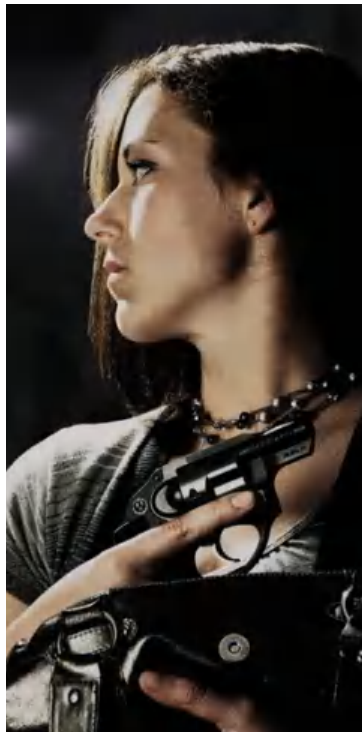
But the point isn't safe storage. It's making the innocent gun owner responsible when a criminal wrongly uses a gun. It's perpetuating the premise that the *gun* in your home poses a threat to your neighbors, or their kids, even though *you* don't. It's making prospective gun owners weigh the potential for ruinous liability against the need to protect their families. In short, it's the usual tactic of making the law-abiding owner of the gun responsible for the wrongful acts of another.

These sorts of concepts can gain traction even in gun-friendly states. But the result is the same as with any sort of gun control. Bit by bit, gun owners are marginalized. Step by step, your rights disappear.

The news isn't all bad, of course. As always, we'll be hard at work pursuing our pro-gun agenda in the states: streamlining concealed-carry laws; expanding the scope of permits; strengthening your right to self-defense. While America is transfixed by the drama and theater of the early political primary season, battles for the Second Amendment will be joined in the states. We'll be doing our part. And with your continued support, we will win. **dh**

Not only is Bloomberg becoming smarter about arraying his forces, but his troops are showing more sophistication in marketing their prohibitionist agenda.

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Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. has pledged to donate \$2 for each new Ruger® firearm sold

between the 2015 and 2016 NRA Annual Meetings, with the goal of giving \$4,000,000. Ruger's donation will benefit the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA). Established in 1975, NRA-ILA is committed to preserving the right of all law-abiding individuals to purchase, possess and use firearms for legitimate purposes as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

RUGER.COM/2MILLION





RING of FREEDOM

Freedom's Future

By Wilson H. Phillips Jr., NRA Treasurer



No Need to Change Your Will Unless...

Making arrangements for the long-term management and distribution of your assets through a will, trust or other plan is a considerate way to provide for the future financial well-being of your loved ones and the causes you cherish.

As your circumstances change, it is important to keep your will and other plans up-to-date to reflect your current needs and wishes. Some common changes that may require you to update your plans are:

Your Family

Births, deaths, marriages and other changes in family are among the most common reasons for making revisions to wills, trusts and other plans.

Your Financial Circumstances

Past plans may no longer be appropriate or applicable due to changes in the value of your assets, any income they produce or other circumstances.

Your Gun Collection

You may have added to your gun collection and would like to distribute your most prized firearms to different heirs.

Your Executor

The person you originally named to settle your affairs may no longer be able to serve. If this is the case, you will want to name an alternate, otherwise, a court may name someone you neither know nor trust.

You Move

Your plans may have been drafted under the laws of your former state of residence. It is important to have them reviewed to make sure they are valid under the laws of the state of your current residence.

Your Charitable Interests

Just as other priorities may shift over time, your charitable interests may also change. After first providing for family and other loved ones, you may want to give to one or more charitable interests through your will or other estate plans.

Now is a good time of year to talk with family and friends who are named in your estate plans. Share with them what you plan to do and educate them about where you keep important documents, how to contact your advisers, and what they need to do in case of your passing.

If you choose to leave a gift to the National Rifle Association, or any of its affiliated charities, share with your family why this cause is important to you and how to get in touch with the NRA Planned Giving offices. After you pass, our staff will work with your executor to ensure the gifting process goes smoothly.

Remember to consult with your advisers if you believe changes are in order. They will help make sure your entire will, trust or other plan is written to meet your wishes. NRA staff members can locate and provide the names of local attorneys who can assist in writing your estate plans.

To request your complimentary guide, please call the NRA's Planned Giving Department at (877) NRA-GIVE [(877) 672-4483]

or email

plannedgiving@nrahq.org.

You can also download the guide directly from our website at nraplannedgiving.org

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION of AMERICA

Creating a Constitutionally Centered Will

NRA MEMBER PLANNED GIVING GUIDE



Creating Your Legacy

Each individual or family situation is unique, and this is particularly true when planning a gift to the National Rifle Association (NRA). One of the most popular ways to give is through a provision in one's estate plan.

The next time you sit down to update your will, think about including the NRA. After first provid-

ing for the financial well-being of your family and loved ones, I urge you to join me in taking a step that can be a very special way to extend important freedoms to future generations.

Contact the NRA's Planned Giving team for more information.

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Photo: Ken Steinhardt / Associated Press

GOING TO POT

ILLEGAL MARIJUANA ‘GROWS’ ARE SPROUTING UP ON PUBLIC WILDLANDS

By James Swan

Even if you don't hunt, when you go outdoors you expect peace and quiet, and you expect to see wildlife. But across the United States, as people venture into public wildlands they're encountering some other "wildlife."

In 2008 my son and I were invited by California game wardens to make a documentary about their work as the frontline of conservation. As we began doing ride-alongs, Lt. John Nores asked if we'd like to video the Santa Clara County multi-agency marijuana eradication team (MET) in action.

Marijuana in some form is legal in 23 states (medical marijuana is legal in California), but as John explained, the MET team focuses on illegal marijuana gardens on public wildlands (called "grows") that are typically run by international organized crime.

We met John and the MET team—a dozen people all dressed in full tactical gear who introduced themselves using aliases—near a regional park in Santa Clara County. Minutes later, a National Guard helicopter landed. A 100-foot rope with a sling on one end was attached to the helicopter. Two men carrying rifles and machetes stepped forward and pulled the sling around

them so they could sit on it. The helicopter slowly lifted up, and the two men were pulled into the air. The helicopter quickly headed toward a grove of oak trees about half a mile away. Five minutes later the helicopter returned for a second load. After the fourth trip, the helicopter came back for us. (No, we did not ride in the sling.)

A few minutes later we hovered over the forest. The tree canopy seemed just fine. "Watch," said the pilot. As the helicopter slowly descended, the branches of the trees parted, revealing bright green plants in the understory, several MET team members cutting them and black plastic irrigation lines everywhere.

We picked up a load of marijuana plants in the sling and headed back, taking a slightly different route. Passing over another area on the other side of the main road, the pilot said he thought he saw another grow. After a number of trips to bring back plants and the team, the group assembled for a quick lunch. "Ten thousand plants this morning," the team leader announced. "Think we got another one just like it across the road."

Minutes later the helicopter took off with two men "high-lining."



After three more trips, the call came in: “All clear.” We were told to drive over and meet John on the road.

We met John and parked, and he said, “Follow me closely and step where I step.” He explained that sometimes trails leading to gardens had trip wires, deadfalls and bear traps. Fifty yards into the trees, we came to a chicken wire fence used, John said, to keep deer and rabbits out of the garden. Inside the fence there were boxes of rat poison all along the perimeter. The natural understory plants were removed, and in their place were 5-foot-tall marijuana plants, each with its own drip irrigation system connection on a timer. “Each plant is worth at least a thousand-dollar street value,” John explained.

The camp with cots, propane tanks, ice chests, ammo boxes, tent, fertilizer, pesticides and garbage was all camouflaged. Black plastic irrigation pipelines were everywhere. Irrigation water came from a stream nearby that had been dammed. This camp appeared to be only for growing marijuana, but some sites can be used as meth labs and for smuggling drugs, John explained.

Plants cut that day totaled 20,000. Between 2011 and 2013, the MET team eradicated 54 outdoor grows in unincorporated areas surrounding San Jose, yielding a total of 355,005 marijuana plants. In 2015, through August, MET team raids confiscated plants estimated at \$65 million in street value.

Aside from this being an illegal crop, and the dangers to anyone



Photo: David Bundy / Associated Press

In 2014, the U.S. Forest Service reported illegal marijuana cultivation in 22 states and 72 national forests. Marijuana is also grown in national parks, wildlife refuges and BLM lands.

who finds a grow, farmers complain about the loss of water for irrigation due to illegal diversions. And as growers use propane to cook on, there is the danger of fire, which is especially bad in drought years.

Typically, the growing season begins in April. The growers move into an area at night. They cut brush, set up irrigation systems, plant the garden and live on site until the harvest is finished in September. They pick up food from cars that drop it along the road at night. The growers are all armed. They generally run when they know they’ve been spotted, but some respond with deadly force. MET averages at least one gunfight per year. In 2005 a warden was shot and seriously wounded in an ambush and a grower was killed. In April 2015, a California game warden shot and killed a grower who pulled a gun on him during a raid on a grow on a wildlife refuge.

The experience of the MET team isn’t unique. In 2014, the Forest Service reported illegal marijuana cultivation in 22 states and 72 national forests. Marijuana is also grown in national parks, wildlife refuges, BLM lands, and state and local parks. Almost 4 million plants are removed from illegal grows on public lands nationwide every year, yet this total is estimated at less than 20 percent of what’s actually out there.

The next time you’re out hunting or hiking, look for these warning signs of something that might indicate a grow: irrigation lines or hoses located in unusual places; a trail where there shouldn’t be one; voices coming from an unusual place; primitive semi-permanent camps; fertilizer, pesticides, trash and small propane bottles; and armed individuals outside hunting season. If you find something suspicious, quietly exit the area and report it immediately.

You can also help by contacting your local game wardens and ask if you can assist with cleanups. There are only about 8,000 federal and state game wardens for the entire United States. Cleanup and restoration typically costs between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per acre. **ah**

To learn more about the work of the MET team, see the author’s documentary (jamesswan.com/snowgoose/wardendoc.html); and the book *War in the Woods* by Lt. John Nores and James A. Swan (amazon.com). A trailer for the book can be found on youtube.com.

Unprecedented Commitment

Ruger's 2 Million Gun Challenge is Going Strong



Here at the halfway point of Ruger's 2 Million Gun Challenge, NRA-ILA's war chest for the coming elections is growing in an inspiring new way, increasing by \$2 with the sale of every new Ruger firearm on the way to a projected total contribution of \$4 million.

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre praised Ruger for being part of the effort to take back the White House and expand pro-Second Amendment majorities in both houses of Congress next year. ILA Executive Director Chris W. Cox added, "[B]y supporting the NRA's fight to defend the right to keep and bear arms, Ruger not only advances the rights of American gun owners and hunters—they also directly benefit the freedoms and safety of all Americans."

Perhaps as noteworthy as Ruger's generosity is how this American company is extending itself, in a sense betting on itself, in making such a promise. The 2 million guns Ruger has pledged to build and sell in the year leading up to the 2016 NRA Annual Meetings is an unprecedented number. Four years ago the company stretched manufacturing capacity to meet, and ultimately to exceed, its original Million Gun Challenge. The 1.4 million Rugers produced then smashed the firm's previous annual record, and now with the bar set even higher, it's clear that all 1,843 Ruger employees are fully committed to meeting the objective.

In a conversation with Ruger CEO Mike Fifer, NRA Publications Editorial Director John Zent learned about a corporate transformation that is making this ambitious undertaking a reality.

Zent: Is this a good time to be an American gun manufacturer?

Fifer: This is a really good time to be an American gun consumer. In the past 10 years, as Ruger innovated, we've brought out lots of good products and the best part is our competitors have started to follow. If you like guns, it's never been better, and so when the consumer base is energized and excited, then it's a lot of fun to be a manufacturer.

Zent: How have you balanced your goal to reshape today's market while staying true to Ruger's tradition of quality firearms at great value?

Fifer: Our founder, Bill Ruger, set the tone early on when he decided he was going to make an utterly reliable, honest, workingman's gun for about a week's pay, and we have stuck to that. Rugged and reliable



Ruger CEO Mike Fifer brings important news to gun owners less than halfway through his company's 2 Million Gun Challenge.

are the keystones, and we strive for great value in continuing to develop new products that always fit their market segment. Among my concerns now are: Would Bill Ruger be proud of this? Are we doing the right thing? That's key in all of our product development.

Zent: Rapid growth, corporate or otherwise, can be difficult, yet it seems Ruger has taken that in stride. How are you managing to do so?

Fifer: About eight years ago, we decided to adopt "lean" [processes] throughout our company. It is most noticeable in manufacturing. The key to going lean is eliminating waste, which frees up all kinds of resources. Whether it's space, equipment, people, cash, inventory, it gives you back a lot of resources, and we reinvest those. This is why we've been able to grow so fast both on the product development side and then build lots of those new products. We've gone from eight years ago when we produced 450,000 or so guns to our goal this year of 2 million.

Zent: We've heard you speak about how a company's structure affects the products it makes. How is Ruger dealing with that?

Fifer: My experience, starting when I was in the Navy on submarines, and through different industries, convinced me that smaller organizations work better. It's more personal, you get to know everyone and you get to know their families and all the stories. It's a lot easier to get everyone to pull the oars in the same direction. When it gets too big—and for me, when that exceeds 500 people and certainly over 1,000—there is no way to know everybody or know what's going on, and different groups of people are working in different directions. You get a lot of inefficiencies. I believe we're better off with smaller factories, say 500 people, than with one big facility

"We've gone from eight years ago when we produced 450,000 or so guns to our goal this year of 2 million."



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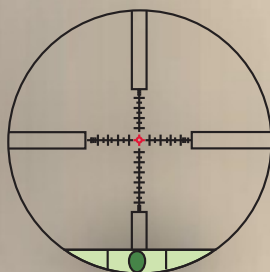
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with thousands of people. When it's personal, everyone cares and that translates directly to higher quality products because someone's name is on that gun when it leaves the building. They care about it.

Zent: Given all that, your ability to build increasingly large numbers of quality products, what makes you so confident that gun owners, who come with all different interests and ideas about what they want, will choose to buy so many new Rugers over the span of the 2 Million Gun Challenge?

Fifer: Since the 2012 NRA show we've brought 31 new major products to market. I think that's more than the rest of the industry combined, and we've done it by reinvesting everything back in. Since I joined the company nine years ago with 17 engineers [on board], now we have more than 100 engineers. We've invested

a lot of effort, we now have product managers, we've spent a lot of time listening to the customers. We actually go out and ask people what they want from Ruger. That's a lot easier way of doing business than just sitting in a factory trying to guess what they would like. So we ask, put the resources behind it, work very hard at it. And I get to test all the new products, that's fun.

■ ■ ■

Every member can help the 2 Million Gun Challenge succeed in providing NRA-ILA badly needed funds to elect pro-gun candidates. When shopping for a gun or advising others in the market for one, please consider what Ruger has to offer. In fact the company's selection is among the largest, the most varied and highest quality available. The Challenge extends to all of us.

NEW FROM BROWNING: AMMUNITION

Browning introduced its own line of branded ammo in September.

In 2016, consumers will see several lines of Browning Ammunition on store shelves: centerfire rifle ammo for big game; shotshells for waterfowl and upland birds, and clays; rimfire loads for hunting and target shooting; centerfire hollow-point pistol loads for personal defense; and centerfire full-metal-jacket loads for target shooting.

Browning Ammunition is the result of a strategic collaboration between

Winchester Ammunition of East Alton, Ill., and Browning of Morgan, Utah. Winchester is responsible for product development, manufacturing, marketing and sales. The alliance connects world leaders in firearm and ammunition manufacturing, as well as legendary brands.

"Browning Ammunition builds upon the legacy and heritage of our brand while introducing innovative products that will carry the iconic Buckmark symbol," said



Travis Hall, Browning president and CEO. "It is a tremendous opportunity to partner with Winchester, the world's leading manufacturer of ammunition for shooters and hunters."

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Hunter Survives Attack By Shoving Arm Down Grizzly's Throat

Quick thinking and an unorthodox defensive maneuver are all that stopped elk hunter Chase Dellwo from becoming lunch for a 400-pound grizzly in the Montana backcountry. According to reports, Dellwo was bowhunting with his brother, Shane, northwest of Choteau when the two separated in an attempt to stalk a nearby elk herd. Once on his own, Chase Dellwo began his push toward the decided ridge where his brother would be waiting. Only minutes into his hike, Dellwo stumbled upon a waking grizzly a mere 3 feet away. The bear attacked, and with no time or space to draw his bow, Dellwo was knocked to the ground. Biting Dellwo on the head and then leg, the grizzly eventually tossed the man and came at him once again. That's when Dellwo remembered a rather obscure fact about large animals from an article his grandmother had given him: Large animals have bad gag reflexes. So he shoved his arm down the grizzly's throat. It worked, and the bear fled.



Photo: Great Falls Tribune / Jo Dee Black

Once able to calm himself, the wounded Dellwo managed to locate his brother, and the two made a fast-paced drive to a nearby medical center where he received multiple stitches and staples to close the wounds on his head, face and leg. Dellwo will probably sit out the remainder of archery season, he says, though, anticipating a full recovery, he told reporters he plans to go after elk once rifle season opens.



Greater Sage Grouse to Remain Off Endangered Species List

Thanks to the largest land conservation effort in American history, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) made the decision in September not to add the greater sage grouse to the endangered species list. Collaboration between federal and state agencies as well as private landowners has significantly reduced threats to the greater sage grouse across 90 percent of the species' breeding habitat.

As noted in a press release from the USFWS, this determination was reached after evaluating the bird's population status, and the collective efforts by the BLM and U.S. Forest

Service, state agencies, private landowners and other partners to conserve its habitat. Despite long-term population declines, sage-grouse remain relatively abundant and well-distributed across the species' 173-million-acre range. After a thorough analysis of the best available scientific information and taking into account ongoing key conservation efforts and their projected benefits, the USFWS has determined the bird does not face the risk of extinction now or in the foreseeable future and therefore does not need protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Photo: D. Robert & Lori Franz / Windigoimages.com

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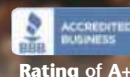
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AH Exclusive: Wisconsin Deer Hunter Fends off Trio of Wolves with Walther PK380

Army veteran says: "I'd be dead without my military experience."

It was supposed to be a simple scouting mission for deer.

"I'm looking for big bucks this year, you know, monsters," said Matthew Nellessen of Friendship, Wisc., in a phone interview with AH in September.

Monsters. ... Enter irony.

On Sept. 23, Nellessen, an avid deer hunter, NRA member and former Army sergeant who served with the 961st Engineer Battalion in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007, reports he was scouting a potential hunting area in the Colburn Wildlife Management Area of Adams County when he ended up in a life-or-death fight with three wolves, and walked away unscathed.

"I got to a point where I was cresting the ridge. All of the sudden I saw legs go up through the woods and I'm like, 'Hey, I'm on track, I kicked a deer out,'" said Nellessen. "Well, the deer ended up becoming a wolf."

Locking eyes with a wolf only 30 feet away, Nellessen, acting on instinct he gained from military service, immediately pulled his sidearm, a Walther PK380, and chambered a round.

That's when things went from bad to worse. As he racked the slide, Nellessen noticed two more wolves approaching from the left.

"Being a 13-year-veteran, Army and combat veteran, I knew it was 'go time' as soon as I realized I was surrounded," he recalled.

The first wolf came in from the right, mouth open, fangs ready to rip into Matt's leg. A swift kick with his boot landed square and deflected the bite.

"That first wolf missed my leg by 8-10 inches," he said.

The other two wolves weren't far behind. As the next wolf leapt toward Nellessen, he jumped back and was able to fire a single round into the animal. Though he was unsure of the lethality of the hit, at the gunshot two wolves immediately took off for the bush and Nellessen witnessed the third limping away "like a gut-shot deer."

Though shaken, Nellessen, realizing he had not been injured in the ordeal, made a hasty, yet calculated retreat to his truck "clearing every bush and tree along the way with my .380." Once home he called the Wisconsin DNR.



Photo Courtesy Matthew Nellessen

Photo: GaryKramer.net

The following day, with biologists from the Wisconsin DNR and USDA Wildlife Services in tow, Nellessen returned to the area where the attack took place and hoped to find a dead wolf. And while at the time of publication no wolf had been found, Nellessen reported the group did find lots of wolf sign, and a blood trail that ended after roughly 150 yards.

Wolf populations in the Great Lakes region, including those in Wisconsin, grew numerous enough by 2012 to prompt removal of the species from the federal endangered species list. Wisconsin estimated its population at 800-plus animals in 2012 (the most recent numbers to be found). But a 2014 lawsuit filed by animal-rights groups and anti-hunting organizations prompted the courts to vacate that decision, returning Great Lakes wolves to endangered status.

Upon the relisting, all lethal management of wolves ceased in Wisconsin. The ruling affected not only hunters, who bagged a total of 154 wolves in 2014-15 prior to the relisting, but land-owners who now find it a federal crime to kill a wolf in the act of predation on pets and livestock. This year alone, there have been more than 55 reported cases of wolves attacking pets and



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MISSION
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Wisconsin deer hunter Matthew Nellessen served with the Army's 961st Engineer Battalion in Afghanistan in 2006-07.

livestock in Wisconsin, and now, one of a human.

Nellessen credits his ability to make it home safely to his military and firearm training. "I think I would absolutely be dead without my military experience," he said.

The knowledge borne of such training convinced Nellessen to tell his story not to a local news outlet but to AH. "I kinda owe it to the gun culture,

NRA American Hunter

To read our comprehensive coverage of this story
log on to AmericanHunter.org.

ya know. I figured, ya know, if I'm getting ahold of anybody it's gonna be the NRA. Sure, someone didn't kick my door in and I protected myself. I wasn't getting shot at or anything. But it's a legit self-defense story, ya know. Danger comes from anywhere, be it human or mother nature, ya never know."

Nellessen doesn't blame the wolves: "I don't think that they were stalking me wanting to eat me. I think it was more of a territorial protection thing. But it scared the living daylight out of me." He says he hasn't been so scared since he was in Afghanistan in 2006, but he realizes that he was the one who walked into "their house." The last thing he wants is for "people to go out there looking for trouble and shooting a bunch of wolves."

But even more astonishing than his lack of resentment toward the animals he claims would have surely killed him if not for "that single bullet" is his thankfulness that it happened to him, rather than someone else.

"Thank God it was me there. It wasn't someone else, in the middle of the dark with a treestand on their back and a bow in hand," he exclaimed, "or someone with their kid going out squirrel hunting. Thank God it happened to a combat veteran. ... Period."

At the time of publication, the Wisconsin DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service responded to our calls and emails by stating: "Due to an on-going investigation, the Wisconsin DNR along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are unable to make a formal comment about this case at this time."

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This watch doesn't do dainty. And neither do I. Call me old-fashioned, but I want my boots to be leather, my tires to be deep-tread monsters, and my steak thick and rare. Inspiration for a man's watch should come from things like fast cars, firefighters and power tools. And if you want to talk beauty, then let's discuss a 428 cubic inch V8.

Did I mention the \$59 price tag? This is a LOT of machine for not a lot of money. The *Stauer Centurion Hybrid* sports a heavy-duty alloy body, chromed and detailed with a rotating bezel that allows you to track direction. The luminous hour and minute hands mean you can keep working into the night. And the dual digital displays give this watch a hybrid ability. The LCD windows displays the time, day and date, includes a stopwatch function, and features a bright green electro-luminescent backlight. We previously offered the *Centurion* for \$199, but with the exclusive promotional code it's yours for **ONLY \$59!**

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Weatherby's New Rifle, Cartridge

Weatherby has big news for 2016 with the introduction of its upgraded New Mark V rifle and the first addition to its family of cartridges in 17 years: the 6.5-300 Weatherby Magnum.

New Mark V rifles will be physically enhanced with a slimmer forearm and sharper, more distinctive lines on the stock. The grip diameter will be reduced, a right-hand palm swell added and overall weight decreased. Weatherby hopes the refinements will produce a better fit and feel for a wider range of shooters.

Another upgrade found on the New Mark V is the Weatherby LXX trigger, designed to increase performance and shooter accuracy. The trigger's surfaces are precision ground and polished, and overall tolerances have been refined. A new, wider trigger face improves trigger-to-finger contact for a more consistent and comfortable pull. It is adjustable down to 2.5 pounds. Each New Mark V will come with a sub-MOA accuracy guarantee.

Combined with high-ballistic coefficient (BC) projectiles designed for long-range shooting, the velocity of the 6.5-300 Wby. Mag. is meant to open a whole new world of possibilities for competitive shooters and provide hunters with optimal terminal performance. Weatherby will offer three different options in loaded ammunition for the 6.5-300 Wby. Mag. with muzzle velocities ranging from 3531 to 3395 fps featuring Barnes or Swift bullets. Correspondingly, the new cartridge will be chambered in New Mark V rifles including the Accumark, Accumark RC and Ultra Lightweight. **ah**

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Photo: Tommy Kirkland

Your Post-Opening Day Playbook

By Frank Miniter, Field Editor

“**G**et your buck yet?” The question was a punch in the gut. This was eighth grade in a small Catholic middle school. There were a dozen boys in class who’d just experienced their first opening day with their very own buck tags in their pockets and they wanted to know where I fit. Had I become a man or was I still a grade-school kid?

“Not yet,” I mumbled as “just you wait” shouted in my head.

The news passed down and across the rows of desks. I heard the tally. Four of them had gotten their bucks on opening Monday. They were the ones asking. The rest of us knew we’d have to endure their stories until we’d earned our own. We knew if we came back from Thanksgiving break without a filled buck tag we’d be boys for the rest of the school year.

Of course, as we get older and have sons and daughters to take hunting and a lot of seasons to our credit this changes, but we still ask each other that same defining question each season. And we still wonder what we can do to fill those tags. Here are a few savvy ways to, if not answer with a photo on your smart phone, at least have a lively story to tell about how the big one slipped through your almost perfect plan.

1. Go Thick and Stay Long

We said this in the eighth grade and I still hear guys saying this at the club: “All the bucks are worn out from the rut and are laying up somewhere.” This is true and false. Lots of anecdotal experience and plenty of GPS-collar deer studies have shown that hunting pressure makes bucks spend their days in thicker habitat. But bucks don’t necessarily tuck in and sleep from sunrise to sunset. GPS-collar studies have shown that bucks get up and move around their core areas—the thick and safe places they spend

their days in—during midday to feed or search for late-estrous does. They’ll also often begin moving toward feeding areas during shooting light. So, with the right setup and approach, you can catch a “nocturnal” buck on its feet after opening day.

2. Hunt Low-Impact

Keaton Kelso, owner of K&K Outfitters in Kansas, and one of NRA Outdoors’ vetted hunt providers, says, “We don’t pressure our properties, but my neighbors love to push deer, so by the end of the season we typically have a lot of mature bucks moving on to us that we’ve never seen before. Some are following the does, but others are just avoiding pressure.”

Kelso says his basic late-season strategy is for hunters to use the capabilities of their rifles. He sets them up 200-300 yards from food sources and waits for bucks to make a mistake. When it’s time to leave, a hunter can easily slip away unnoticed.

For those hunting on smaller parcels or public lands, hunting low-impact means finding those buck hideouts and hunting them smart.

3. Target Yearling Does

Yearling does typically come into estrus 28 days after the peak of the rut. If the rut peaks in your area on Nov. 10, you can expect this second rut to take place about Dec. 8. Here’s what’s really interesting: Yearling does haven’t learned to lead a buck into thick cover, away from heavily used deer trails, thereby locking him down for 24-48 hours. Yearling does are naïve. They tend to stay in areas with other deer. The bucks with these young does follow them and attract other bucks. This can make the second rut even better than the first.



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Kelso says, "Yearling does drag big bucks into the open in this secondary rut. The mature bucks might know better, but they have something else on their minds."

4. Focus on Food

Though we've all heard that bucks lose around 30 percent of their body weight during the rut, look at this statistic this way: A buck weighing 220 pounds in the pre-rut would be only 154 pounds in the post-rut. This means bucks must feed heavily after the rut.

Ryan Bland, owner of Non Typical Outfitters in Illinois (also one of NRA Outdoors' vetted outfitters), says, "Almost all my late-season hunters fill their tags. They also often take our biggest bucks." He says they do this because he plants late-season food plots—mostly brassicas—and doesn't pressure them until conditions are perfect. "When it's 20 degrees and falling, the wind is gusting and a snowstorm is starting, we're going to see our biggest bucks."

Bland says a huge 11-point buck he named "Curly" is a classic example. The buck would show on his trail cams each November, but he'd only get after-dark photos of the giant. As soon as the rut was over he wouldn't even get those. Still, Bland knew basically where that buck had to be. One December day during muzzleloader season he put a young hunter in a stand on a food plot near where he thought this buck was hiding. Fierce winds blew into a near whiteout as a storm dropped 10 inches of snow that afternoon. This weather made Curly get up in daylight. He stepped into the plot. The hunter had a 75-yard shot, but he was young and didn't feel confident he could make the shot with his muzzleloader in the blowing snow.

"Some of the guys in camp gave that kid a hard time for not taking a shot he wasn't comfortable with," says Bland, "but I took him aside and told him I was proud of him. Don't get me wrong, I'm an outfitter and I'd love to have that buck on my website with his smiling face, but he did the right thing."

When that kid was asked, "Did you get your buck yet?" by his classmates I hope he proudly told them how he went out in the big storm but passed on the shot at the big buck. That's how a sportsman acts. As for me, I got my buck that eighth-grade year, and I told a few people, but mostly I just remember a quiet satisfaction. **ah**



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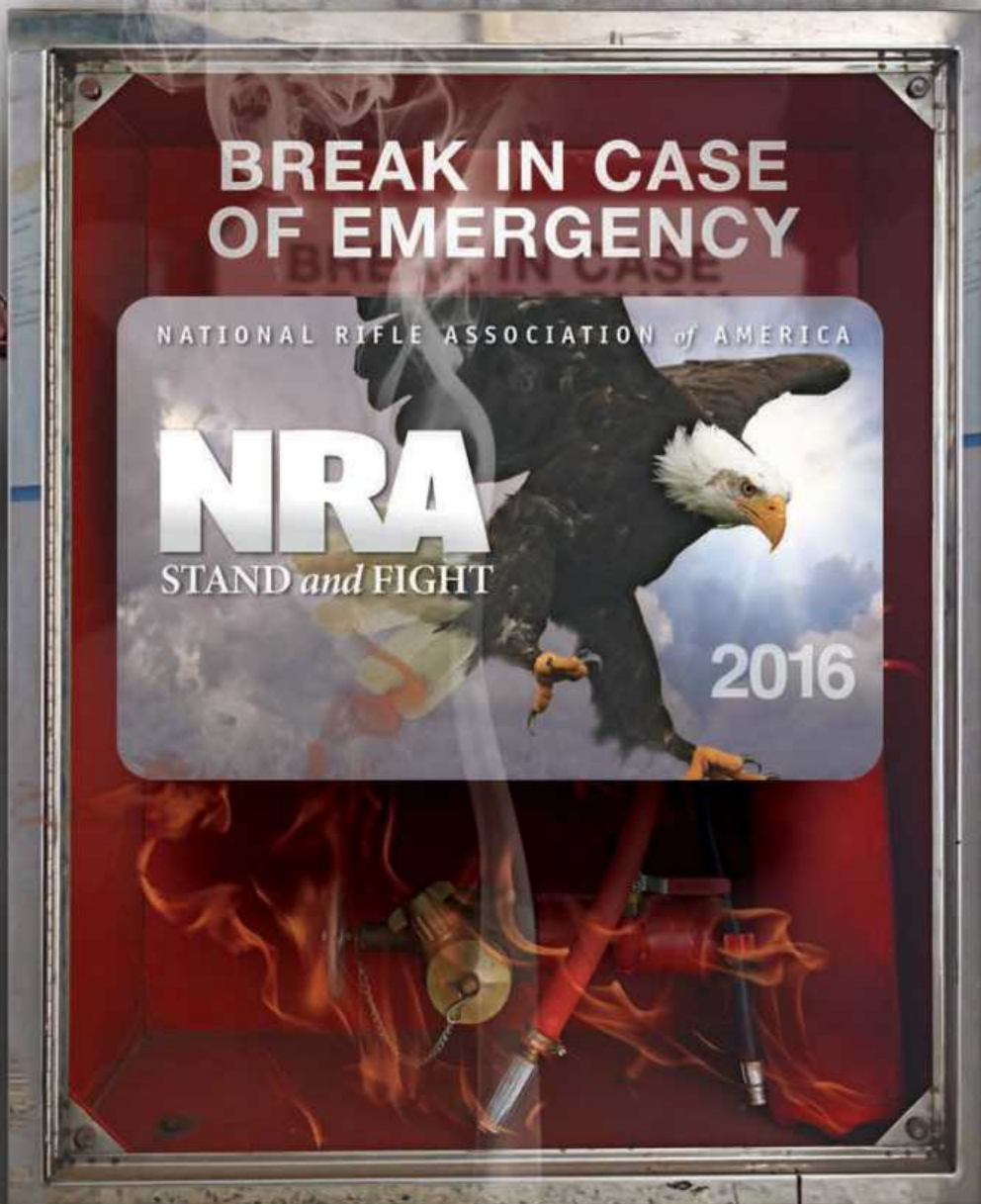
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NRA

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2016





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HEADS AND
WATCH
EVERYTHING
WE LOVE
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SLIP AWAY—
INCLUDING
OUR SECOND
AMENDMENT
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EVERY OTHER
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CHERISH. OR
WE CAN STEP
FORWARD—
AND SHAKE
OUR FISTS
INSTEAD.”

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burning in American
politics right now, and
your Second Amendment-protected right to keep
and bear arms is quietly being shredded and used
as kindling. Fortunately for all Americans who
treasure liberty, there's a monumental firewall
standing tall between the flames of failure and
freedom's future—the 5 million members of the
National Rifle Association.**



by WAYNE LAPIERRE

*NRA Executive
Vice President*

After seven years of President Barack Obama in the White House, we now live in a country where our values and heritage are being turned upside down, in a country where political leaders and the media are willing to tell any lie that advances their political agenda.

Thanks to his refusal to prosecute violent criminals, Obama's hometown of Chicago is awash in a sea of blood. But instead of putting thugs in jail, Obama points his cowardly finger at gun owners like you and me, who've never committed a violent crime and never will.

When a radical Islamic terrorist killed four U.S. Marines and a Navy sailor in Chattanooga, Tenn., last summer—servicemen who were disarmed and defenseless thanks to reckless gun control policies that have turned our military installations into “gun-free zones”—Obama's billionaire backer Michael Bloomberg launched a campaign to blame honest, law-abiding Americans for this heinous crime.

And within minutes of the tragedy in Charleston, S.C.—where nine worshipers were murdered in church by a deranged, lone racist—Obama's political machine was cranking out anti-NRA lies and trying to implicate you and me in this heinous crime.

It's crazy—and beyond anything we could have imagined a few years ago. Day by day, our country is being hijacked by liars and elites who believe in one set of rules for themselves and another set of rules for you and me.

They send their children to private schools surrounded by armed guards—then call me “crazy” when I demand the same protections for every other kid in this country. They send thousands of guns to Mexican drug lords—then blame the NRA and the Second Amendment when their irresponsible actions result in hundreds of deaths. They turn a blind



FREEDOM'S ON FIRE

eye to violent gangs who terrorize our cities with no fear of the police—then persecute honest citizens who defend their own lives.

Our news anchors lie to millions night after night, but decent people are afraid to speak their minds for fear of persecution from Obama's weaponized IRS and other government agencies. And every horrific crime is another opportunity for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton to tell more lies and point their fingers at the innocent.

Everywhere I go, I hear good people telling me that our country is falling apart. That we're losing our way of life. That Thomas Jefferson and James Madison wouldn't begin to recognize this country today. Now, the future of everything we love about this country comes down to the

the polls, we have the votes—with more than 50 million gun owners in the key battleground states where this presidential election will be won or lost.

The moment you and I win the White House next year is the moment we can start taking our country back from those who want to regiment our lives and tell us how to think and feel.

But it's going to take a huge commitment from top NRA members like you—starting with your decision to extend your annual membership today, or upgrade your Life, Patron, Endowment or Benefactor membership to the next level of our leadership ranks.

That brings me to an important point: Today I need to announce an important

“BACK IN 1994, MICHAEL BLOOMBERG WASN'T EVEN A BILLIONAIRE. NOW, HIS PERSONAL FORTUNE TOTALS MORE THAN ALL THE MEMBERSHIP DUES NRA HAS TAKEN IN OVER THE PAST 144 YEARS, AND HE COULD SPEND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN THIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN TO PUT HILLARY CLINTON OVER THE TOP.”

outcome of one single election—and one choice that you and I must make today.

We can shake our heads and watch everything we love about America slip away—including our Second Amendment rights and every other freedom we cherish. Or we can step forward—and shake our fists instead.

If we make a commitment together to *stand and fight and win* right now, we can be the ones who decide the outcome of this presidential election—not Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton or Michael Bloomberg.

We've played the deciding role in presidential elections before. We have the track record. And if we can get them to

decision to you and to every NRA member. I've put it off for as long as I can, and it's not a decision I've made lightly. But it's the right decision for the NRA, and for the long-term survival of our freedoms.

As of Jan. 1, 2016, we will be increasing NRA dues for the first time in more than 20 years. Our one-year dues rate will increase to \$40 from \$35, and the price of our multi-year memberships and Life, Endowment, Patron and Benefactor memberships will increase as well.

Since taking the helm of NRA more than 20 years ago, I've always tried to stretch every NRA membership dollar as far as it will go. But not only have NRA dues dollars

been deeply eroded by inflation for more than 20 years, but we now have to fight 24/7—on far more fronts than before—against enemies with deeper pockets than we've ever faced.

When we last increased dues back in 1994, most Americans still got their TV news from the “big three” networks. Now, we have no choice but to answer daily and nightly attacks from a dozen separate news channels around the clock.

In 1994, most Americans had never even heard of the Internet. Now, politicians like Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton can use the Internet to spread their anti-gun lies like wildfire in a matter of minutes—or instantly spin new attacks via email, Facebook and Twitter.

Back in 1994, Michael Bloomberg wasn't even a billionaire. Now, his personal fortune totals more than all the membership dues NRA has taken in over the past 144 years, and he could spend hundreds of millions of dollars in this presidential campaign to put Hillary Clinton over the top.

And it takes far more money and effort to make our message heard at election time. In fact, House and Senate campaigns now cost three times what they did 20 years ago—and presidential campaign spending has increased five-fold.

The bottom line is that, without this dues increase, we won't be able to compete in the election a year from now, which will be the most expensive in American history and that could be the final defeat for the Second Amendment and every freedom we cherish.

But before this increase goes into effect, I want you and my most loyal friends to have one more opportunity to extend your membership at the same discount rates we offered you at this time last year. If you're an annual member, you can extend your membership for one, two, three or even five years—all at special prices that will never be repeated. And if you're a Life, Endowment, Patron or Benefactor member, this is your chance to upgrade your membership to the next level at the lowest dues rates we've offered in years.

To take advantage of the special offers we've reserved especially for you, simply visit NRA2016.org and log in with your membership number from the mailing label on this magazine. No matter which of our discount offers you select, *you'll also receive a commemorative gift* from NRA as a reminder of your role in saving freedom in the do-or-die elections one year from now.

Please do it now. These special discounts and gift offers will expire at midnight Dec. 31, and our new rates will go

into effect on Jan. 1, 2016. But even more importantly, NRA needs your help now to save our freedom, save our country and save our way of life.

I'm asking you not to sit this one out. I need you to be with me on the tip of the spear by continuing your NRA support right now. None of us can win this election alone—but one by one by one we can and will make the difference.

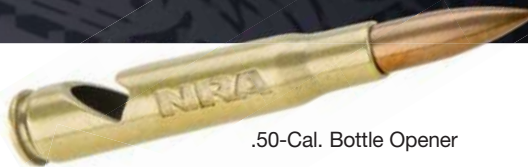
This is our fight. Our time. This is the moment when good people like you need to take the future into your own hands. We can take our country back. We can keep our guns. And we can keep our freedoms and the sacred right to defend our own lives.

It starts with your decision to renew your membership or upgrade your membership today. Only NRA can protect your right to protect yourself. Only NRA can turn the tide against gun-banners who want to turn our country into a nanny state where only the government and criminals are allowed to have guns.

And you can make a difference—as well as lock in a great membership rate before the NRA dues increase on Jan. 1—by visiting **NRA2016.org** today. Thank you in advance for standing with me in the most important battle for freedom we'll ever fight!



Renew or upgrade your membership before Jan. 1, 2016, at the lowest prices we've offered in years, and receive an extraordinary gift in honor of your leadership and support!



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Queen of the

Wingmead is a name of Scottish origin that means “meadow of wings,” which is what the Grand Prairie of Arkansas becomes each year when ducks migrate here.

By J. Scott Olmsted, Editor in Chief

In predawn darkness, half a dozen hunters lean against oaks towering above still, black water. Other than the occasional ripple created when somebody shifts weight off a sunken tree limb, the only noise present is the sound of the wings on the spinning decoy in our spread.

Tim Doepel begins to call—soft quacks, as if to say to the ducks circling above us, “C’m on, folks, plenty of acorns and safety down here.”



Grand Prairie

Soon, five mallards drop through the trees before us.

Tim stops calling and quietly, matter-of-factly says, "Take 'em."

Boom! Boom, ba-boom, boom, boom! Boom! The blasts clap off the water and roll through the timber like thunder.

As the shooting ends, we shuck in more shells and furtively exchange appreciative glances. It's as if each of us is saying, "Did you see that? They dropped right in front of us and ..."

More ducks drop in so quickly we're caught with hands on shells and thumbs in magazines. We're not ready. Then we all realize the obvious: No one fired more than a round or two at the first group. So we unload again.

Boom, boom, ba-boom boom! Boom! Boom! Ba-boom, boom!

Six more ducks are added to the first five. How can anyone miss in here? The ducks are so close I could butt stroke them with the Browning.

Over the next hour, when we dare to expose white faces, we sneak looks skyward. Mallards—many of them—sail overhead. We kick the water to give movement to the decoy spread when we think the action is slowing. But the truth is it is not slowing. In fact in about an hour six of us limit out with six ducks apiece. Most are mallards. Add in five ducks apiece for each of our two guides, and it's clear this is a good morning. Forty-six ducks in an hour: This is

something waterfowlers everywhere hear about, dream about but rarely experience firsthand. It's the reason I came here.

A Grand Grassland Beckons

Welcome to the Grand Prairie. Located between the bottomlands of the White and Arkansas rivers, it is a sub-region of the Mississippi Delta in eastern Arkansas. At one time it was an immense area of native grassland stretching across Prairie, Lonoke and Monroe counties, surrounded by the swampy Delta land.

Today the native grassland is no longer so distinct, due mainly to clear-cutting and settlement. However, the region still produces and houses two things in abundance: rice and ducks.



Photo: Bill Buckley



Soft calling works best in the confines of Wingmead's flooded timber, as Tim Doepel's band-heavy lanyard attests.

Native Americans lived and hunted here. Pottery adorned with ducks dating to 1100 sits in the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie, in Stuttgart. As early as 1819, settlers thought the 900,000 acres of the Prairie was “truly inexhaustible” pastureland. So they plowed it to plant corn or wheat. Some tried cotton, but the land was not ideal for the cash crop and so the region lagged behind other parts of the state. This hardly deterred settlement. European-American immigrants were attracted to a place where they could raise cattle and cut hay. German settlers founded Stuttgart in 1878. In the 1890s, Slovaks established the town of Slovak, in Prairie County.

Soon thereafter, hay was replaced as the crop of the region.

Beneath the Prairie's topsoil lies a deep layer of dense clay impenetrable by water, as opposed to the alluvial soils of the Delta. However, beneath that clay lay what seemed to be an inexhaustible supply of groundwater from the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer. That made it ideal for a crop like rice, which requires flooding to cultivate.

Rice cultivation began in earnest here in 1897. By 1906, 4,000 acres of the Prairie were planted in rice; the state's first rice mill was built the next year. Now, rice requires 33 inches of water during its growing season. So to supply such irrigation, farmers drilled wells to tap the aquifer. By the dawn of World War I,

more groundwater was being pumped to irrigate 100,000 acres of rice than could be replaced by natural processes. Soon, lowering of the water level in the Alluvial Aquifer raised concerns, and in 1931 a study by the U.S. Geological Survey linked cause and effect. But this didn't deter rice farmers who began pumping from the nearby Sparta Sands Aquifer. And federal agricultural incentives during World War II only increased rice production.

To mitigate some of these problems, the Flood Control Act of 1950 authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to supply rice farmers with water from the White River. The plan to draw 100 billion gallons a year from the river faced resistance that continued until at least 2011. Today, less than 1 percent of the original native grassland remains.

Onto this landscape in the 1930s strode Edgar Monsanto Queeny, who was born in 1897, the year rice production began on the Prairie. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War I, earned a chemistry degree from Cornell in 1919 then went to work for the family business: Monsanto Chemical Company, started by Edgar's father in 1901 with \$5,000. Edgar became president of the company in 1928, and by the time he retired in 1960, he'd built Monsanto into the third-largest chemical company

in the nation and the fifth-largest such enterprise in the world.

His pastime—indeed, his passion—was duck hunting. Beginning in the early 1930s, Queeny and his wife, Ethel, residents of St. Louis, began making frequent trips to the Grand Prairie, staying in a travel trailer. It's said that Ethel “could handle a shotgun as well as her husband,” but apparently she couldn't handle living out of a trailer. It's also said she gave Edgar an ultimatum: Find suitable quarters or he could count her out on future forays to Arkansas. He did so in 1937.

Queeny had been hunting the Mill Bayou near DeWitt with Elmer “Tippy”



Photos: Author

NRA American Hunter

AH Field Editor Joe Coogan is good friends with the Lyon family. Read about his experiences at Wingmead at AmericanHunter.org.



LaCotts and Jess Wilson, reputedly the state's best duck caller in the 1930s. Queeny liked the land in Arkansas County, and so he purchased 11,000 acres on LaGrue Bayou. Hard feelings still linger over the way he acquired some of it.

Verne Tindall's Reservoir, built in 1927 near Stuttgart, paved the way toward increased rice production in the face of lowered water tables. By then, wells had to



be dug twice as deep as only 30 years prior. Tindall's solved that. It also attracted even more ducks thanks to shallow lakes built to hold water for rice irrigation.

Queeny, sensing a grand opportunity, formed the Arkansas Irrigation Company and proposed to build a 3,500-acre reservoir on LaGrue Bayou to augment Tindall's—and used eminent domain to secure the necessary acreage not already owned

or purchased outright. In the midst of the Great Depression, many Slovak farmers were forced to sell some parcels to make room for what would become Peckerwood Lake, so named by Ethel, who noted the many woodpeckers that thumped the standing dead timber when the impoundment was completed in 1942.

In 1939, Queeny commissioned Frederick Wallace Dunn, a St. Louis architect and Yale graduate, to design a colonial revival mansion on the property. The 10,000-square-foot home has nine bedrooms and nine bathrooms, and two wings with a formal dining room. Queeny named the estate Wingmead, a word of Scottish origin that means "meadow of wings."

He was by no means done. He built three green-tree reservoirs—Wingmead, Greenwood and Paddlefoot—covered with pin oaks to be flooded seasonally for the purpose of attracting ducks for hunting. However, Peckerwood was reserved as sanctuary for resting waterfowl.

Queeny now had a duck club that enabled him to shoot a limit of mallards only moments from his mansion. Indeed,

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Photo: Bill Buckley

pictures still hanging in the mansion show Edgar and Ethel in a blind: Behind them, their guide stands in almost formal dress. Word spread. Over the years, dignitaries beat a path to Wingmead; included among them were the famous outdoor writer Nash Buckingham, wildlife illustrator Richard Bishop and Walt Disney. Guests were expected to dress for dinner. Queeny tackled his business and his pastime with equal fervor, even mixing the two. Often, he flew down Monsanto staff from St. Louis on his private plane. He hunted ducks in the morning then held a board meeting before Monsanto staff returned to the city.

Queeny was keenly interested in the flight of ducks. It was at Wingmead where he wrote the book *Prairie Wings*, published by Ducks Unlimited in 1946. The seminal work is still unequaled as a study of ducks in flight. It was illustrated

by Bishop, then one of the country's best wildlife artists.

Edgar Queeny died in 1968. Thereafter his widow, Ethel, maintained the estate until her death in 1975, whereupon it was willed to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. In 1976, Barnes sold Wingmead via sealed bid. Rumored suitors included Anheuser-Busch and celebrities Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley. However, the Lyon family of Arkansas won the bidding. Today, the farm is still owned and operated by Frank and Jane Lyon not only as a hunting lodge but also as one of the most successful producers of rice, soybeans and wheat on the Grand Prairie.

Wingmead is not the only club on the Grand Prairie, but it's the jewel of the region—that much is sure. Today it encompasses 14,000 acres, and is the centerpiece on a landscape that has attracted migrating ducks and geese for centuries.

Paradise Preserved

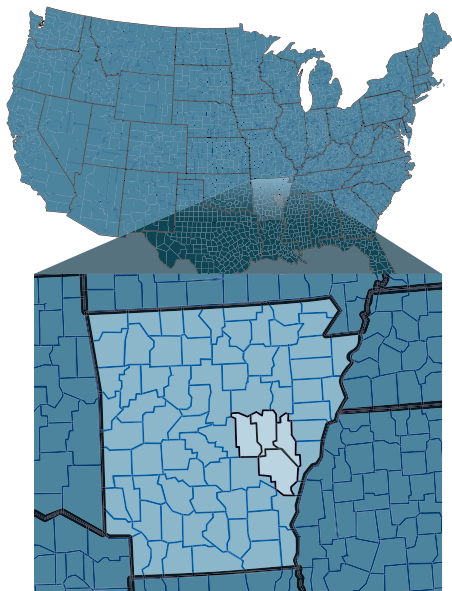
In light of so much history, the Grand Prairie's reputation among duck hunters is not surprising. Folks travel from near and far to get a crack at ducks over rice fields and ducks winging through hardwood bottoms flooded seasonally by overflow from the White and Cache rivers. Waterfowl of the Mississippi Flyway have for the past 90-plus years been rewarded during stopovers here by the region's improved rice cultivation.

I first hunted the region more than a decade ago. Though I couldn't call myself much of a waterfowler then, I'd heard of Stuttgart and knew an invitation to hunt there was not to be refused. Problem was, my gun and gear did not make it to Little Rock in time to shove off for our lodge, and so I hunted with begged and borrowed clothing, guns and ammo. We hunted from a blind above standing water one morning, and shared a pit in a rice field with then-Gov. Mike Huckabee on another. On the way back to Little Rock, I picked up my duffel and gun case at Mack's Prairie Wings, the famous sport shop of Stuttgart known by waterfowlers nationwide for its thriving catalog commerce.

My second hunt on the Prairie didn't include ducks at all. A group of us traveled to Wingmead to shoot deer. I didn't mind,



The 10,000-square-foot colonial revival mansion contains a complete collection of every duck stamp ever issued.



Hunting Arkansas' Grand Prairie

AREA: Flooded timber and rice fields in the vicinity of Stuttgart, Ark., include the Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area, open to the public, and the flooded White River bottoms, which also contain public areas and many commercial operations where nonresidents can book hunts.

GETTING THERE: Stuttgart is located less than an hour's drive from Little Rock and about a 2.5-hour drive from Memphis. Interstate 40, which links Little Rock to Memphis, lies 20 miles north of Stuttgart. The Stuttgart Airport has no scheduled flights but handles private planes, including jets, with a mile-long paved airstrip.

LICENSES & OUTFITTERS: For information and Arkansas hunting licenses and state duck stamps, which can be bought over the phone with a credit card, call 800-364-GAME. A list of outfitters can be obtained by writing the Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce: 507 South Main, Stuttgart, AR 72160.

Joe Coogan, Field Editor

for only a year prior AH Field Editor Bryce Towsley had shot his best-ever buck here, and I had dreams of doing the same. That didn't happen, but something else did: As the trip waned and I took in all the history the famous farm held, I knew any return to it must include an opportunity to stand in flooded timber and watch greenheads drop into a spread.

That happened last year, as described at the outset.




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It is said Wingmead hosts the largest concentration of wintering mallards in the country, and my observations can find no falsehood in that statement. Peckerwood remains an important winter rest area. In fact most of the waterfowl hunted on the Prairie use the lake at one time or another during their winter stay.

Its green-tree reservoirs—Greenwood, Paddlefoot and Wingmead—are flooded seasonally with releases from Peckerwood. We hunted Greenwood that first morning. The practice, begun by Queeny, is today enhanced by a wildlife management program implemented by the Lyons that includes a rice and bean farming operation. They are forever improving habitat, creating food and protection for every species that calls Wingmead home. Everything perpetuates a waterfowl paradise.

When the Lyons bought the place everything was included: the land, the house and outbuildings, the furniture, artwork—everything. The artwork includes original paintings by Bishop. A duck illustration by him became the official logo of Wingmead, which graces the china and glassware. The mansion contains the only complete, original collection of every duck stamp and painting that inspired it I have ever seen. Old logbooks in the main house date to the late 1930s and contain passages from many famous guests, among them Buckingham of Mississippi, who wrote that his party enjoyed a memorable morning in Greenwood and returned to the main house before 8 a.m. Sounds a lot like our shoot the first morning.

Indeed, little has changed here. Room for the airstrip Queeny had cut in the rows of trees that line the driveway is still visible. Guests still spend the night in the main house, which feels a little like a scene from “Night at the Museum.” They still are expected to sign the logbook; an entry by yours truly now graces the pages twice. However, guests are not expected to dress for dinner, which is good because our group last year could not have mustered the necessary garb. Today, Wingmead sits on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hail, the Mallard

The second morning, we each pick a tree to lean against in Paddlefoot.

The handful of times I’ve hunted ducks exclusively it’s been over big water,



Gear for Flooded Timber

I was anxious to wear Browning’s Dirty Bird Wader Jacket and Gunner’s gloves. The jacket is insulated with PrimaLoft Synergy but offers plenty of freedom to move thanks to articulated arms and a short waist; it just fits well. The gauntlet-length gloves have elasticized wrists and waterproof OutDry membranes—you won’t pull up a sleeve full of water when you collect decoys. But as both are insulated and covered in Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades camo they’re too warm and bright for use in the timber. mossyok.com

In the dark timber and on deer stands, everyone wore **Browning Hell’s Canyon outerwear**. The midweight Soft Shell Jacket is the ticket for anyone who values mobility. It’s windproof, water-resistant and breathable thanks to Browning Wind-Kill and pit zips. The Ultra-Lite Pant also is breathable. Both pieces are cut athletically for a snug fit. Both of my pieces are covered in Mossy Oak Break-Up Country camo. (Hell’s Canyon outerwear has come on strong in only two years; it was featured prominently in “Every Hunter Outfitted,” September.)

The real star of the show—in my hands, at least—was **Browning’s Maxus shotgun**. I first used a Maxus on a Manitoba goose hunt and looked forward to shouldering one again; I was not disappointed as the gun made me look like an expert. (Heck, ducks in my face did most of the work but clearly the shotgun played a role.) The Maxus’ PowerDrive gas system cycles a wide range of loads and, along with an Inflex II buttpad, takes a good bit of recoil out of every shot; 3- and 3½-inch models are available. The receiver is made of aluminum alloy to reduce weight, something I appreciated when holding

the gun while standing in water. Features waterfowlers should take note of include the Turnkey magazine plug and Speed Load Plus. Turnkey enables quick and easy changes in magazine capacity with a simple turn of a car key. With Speed Load, hunters may load shells into an empty gun or unload a full magazine without manipulating the bolt. browning.com

We used Federal Premium’s Black Cloud ammo. The stuff I shot, **Black Cloud FS Steel Close Range**, is designed specifically to achieve a full pattern at a mere 20-30 yards. Its payload, Flitestopper Steel, is packed in Federal’s rear-braking Flitecontrol wad. The first morning, mindful of my poor shotgun skills, I weighed down myself with two boxes of shells. I was smarter the second morning, and packed only one box. Indeed, perhaps even a handful of rocks will work when the ducks drop into your lap. This much is sure: A load designed to be effective at 40-50 yards would be too tight in the timber. In the thick stuff, Close Range may be just the ticket. federalpremium.com



Photo: Howard Communications



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or maybe while huddled in a small blind in the midst of a vast field. Either way, in such setups it's necessary to get the ducks' attention across a vast sky. To do that, usually a loud hail is in order. If they look down, lock on your setup, you might then throw in some soft quacks to keep their attention.

The opposite is true in flooded timber. Here, you need to start softly. If ducks circle overhead but don't commit then hail, sure, but keep it down. Throw in some louder chuckle and feed calls to get and/or keep their attention only when the action becomes fast and steady.

In Paddlefoot, we watch ducks circle wide but they won't commit. So Tim Doepel, Wingmead's "jack of all trades" wearing a lanyard covered in leg bands, starts with soft hails. Of course: Every sound carries in the timber. Why hail loudly when the birds are right above you?

Soon enough, Doepel utters his quiet command: "Take 'em." I shoulder the Browning Maxus and fire. Others do, too. However, the ducks don't drop across our spread as they did in Greenwood but instead land to our right, so not everyone gets a shot.

Later, as the action heats up, Doepel switches to rapid feeding calls. Subsequent drop-ins ensure everyone gets in some shooting. I get more than I need, and so I exchange gun for camera. Then we quit.

Typically, flooded timber is hunted only in the morning. Laying off the ducks in the afternoon provides a place for them to rest undisturbed for the remainder of the day. No one complains. We haven't reached our limit so quickly this morning—it has taken us about 90 minutes, not 60—but smiles abound. Among all the mallards, as there was the day before, is a handful of green-winged teal, gadwalls, wood ducks and wigeons. No one will go home empty-handed.

Everyone gives thanks. You see, Wingmead is not open to the public; one must be invited to hunt here. Indeed, I can convey such an honor only vicariously through these words. I hope I've done the place proud because it's doubtful I'll ever return, for one cannot count on boundless graciousness. However, one can count on the rice growing and the timber flooding on the Grand Prairie, and the mallards returning to the meadow of wings again and again. **ah**

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Eastern Ways For Coyotes Anywhere

Unlike in the West, hunting Eastern coyotes means thick woods and heavy cover. Use these techniques and tips to meet those challenges head-on in any region.

By Mark Kayser

Coyotes are coyotes, East or West. Nevertheless, ask any Eastern coyote hunter his views on the new wildlife neighbor that's been steadily expanding since the 1980s and you'll hear stories of predators that don't play by the same rules as their Western counterparts. Paranoia and cunning combine to create a coyote lifestyle that requires a deviation from coyote-calling tradition. Disgruntled coyote hunters east of the Mississippi have started to leave tradition to their Western colleagues and forge a new path to success.

Regardless of your home's GPS waypoint, Eastern attack plans may help you put a coyote in your truck bed this season. Is it time for you to become an Easterner in the coyote sense?

Jerry Lannen, a 20-year veteran of the Eastern coyote frontlines, hails from Pennsylvania. Coyote cravings stirred the Keystone State hunter to create custom hand calls, Deadly Dose Game Calls ([facebook.com/deadlydosegamecalls](https://www.facebook.com/deadlydosegamecalls)), to target his quarry. But even with the custom calls in his hand, Eastern coyotes have still been a thorn in Lannen's side. He's been sending the barbs right back at Eastern coyotes by changing his hunting strategy.



Photo: Author

"I enjoy watching predator hunting on TV," admits Lannen. "I'm a bit jealous when I see a Western hunter call in and shoot five or more coyotes in a single day. Heck, most Eastern predator hunters are lucky to call in and shoot five coyotes a season. If you kill 10 in Pennsylvania you're a hero."

Although Lannen won't lay claim to an expert title, his consistent success reveals that tailored tactics are making a difference in his annual fur take. Even with increasing densities, he understands the

song dogs aren't as plentiful in his backyard as many Western locales. Because of that, his first step toward success is scouting with the drive of a private investigator.

Get a Private-Eye Preview

Lannen believes most Eastern coyote hunters are not setting up where coyotes live. In brief, they simply overlook the aspect of scouting. He knows Western coyote hunters scout, but with Eastern coyotes it's everything.



The close-range hunting scenarios of the East mean relying on scouting and scent control as hunters set up and call in thick cover and tall grass.



"You have to set up where coyotes can hear your calls," stresses Lannen. "That means spending as much time trying to locate coyotes as you do hunting. If you know where they are, your chances of calling them in are just that much greater."

As an all-around hunter, Lannen equates many of his coyote strategies to deer and turkey hunting. In fact, when he's hunting other species he's always scouting for coyotes. He'll look for coyote tracks on the way to a treestand and scan trails for scat while in the turkey woods.

His go-to scouting aid has an audible ring to it: howls. After sunset Lannen gets behind the wheel and drives routes bordering suspected coyote haunts. Periodically, he'll stop and howl in the hope of getting a reply.

To get the most out of return howls, Lannen immediately refers to downloaded maps on his smartphone. Not only does he mark the location of coyotes, but he'll quickly assess whether he can hunt the area on the spot, return later or save it for more boots-on-the-ground reconnaissance. That's all determined by habitat, whether he has permission to hunt an area and what strategy he believes is necessary.

If he had to pick one area that always has coyote activity it would be "anything rocky." Hollows or hillsides with rocky, overgrown terrain attract coyotes, and Lannen knows coyotes will be nearby as they seek out these areas for daytime cover.

Rick Ward, a 30-year coyote hunter, grew up in Texas using Western tactics. Now he lives in Georgia and readily admits that coyotes east of the Mississippi have a different way of doing things. In addition to being a founding member of the Georgia Predator Hunting Association (georgiapha.org), Ward also promotes high-powered air rifles for predator hunting in developed areas through his company, Urban Airgunner ([facebook.com/urbanairgunner](https://www.facebook.com/urbanairgunner)). In his opinion, too many Eastern coyote hunters neglect scent control and don't carefully consider setup sites. It gives them away more often than not.

"I tell people to bowhunt their coyotes," Ward advises. "In the East it's a close-proximity game. You don't see them coming from a mile out like in the West. You don't have time to think about what's going to happen. If you don't have the wind working in your favor you'll never

see a coyote with all the cover, and if you do it'll pop its head out of cover giving you just seconds to react."

Thick cover hampers Ward's Georgia coyote hunts, but he solves the issue by seeking out peanut fields. In particular, he looks for fields traversed by irrigation ditches; the reason makes as much sense





as Lannen's rocky terrain theory.

"Even in the late fall it can be hot in Georgia, and coyotes are trying to stay cool just like me. I scout for irrigation ditches in fields. The water keeps these low spots 10 to 15 degrees cooler, and the overgrown cover gives coyotes a place to hide all day. Once I find an irrigation ditch with those elements, I look over the property and find four different ways to enter it so I can hunt regardless of the wind direction."

ALL-POINTS TIP

Lannen and Ward rely on scouting for coyotes just as most whitetail hunters. To speed up scouting missions, East or West, add map apps and landowner downloads to your smartphone or GPS. Trimble Outdoors (trimbleoutdoors.com) via the MyTopo app gives you access to 68,000 topo maps in the United States and Canada, plus you have access to aerial photos to see the landscape and compare it to a map format.


OnXMaps (huntinggpsmaps.com) gives you similar mapping capabilities with landowner information for many states. Check out ScoutLook Weather (scoutlookweather.com) and its Google

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Set out a Welcome Mat For Everyone

As coyotes spread east they don't necessarily fill habitat niches with blinking "vacancy" signs. Bobcats, bears, foxes and even mountain lions share the terrain, and most predator hunters are equal-opportunists. They don't really care which furbearer shows up to the squalls. Lannen isn't afraid to confess most of his coyotes don't fall to prey-in-distress calls. Still, he knows that calling in a predator in the East is an accomplishment, so he starts most stands with a welcome-mat message.

"Unless I'm strictly focusing on coyotes, I usually go after foxes and coyotes at the start of my set by sending a message for all stomachs," Lannen describes. "A prey-in-distress call, like a dying rabbit, could bring in a fox or a coyote. I'll give that message 15



to 20 minutes, and if there's no response then I'll add howls to zero in on coyotes in the closing minutes of the setup."

His initial howls represent a lone, non-aggressive coyote. Occasionally he places an electronic caller several yards from his location to add the howls of a second coyote. If a coyote responds, Lannen then begins to mimic the answering coyote. If the coyote changes tone to an aggressive,

challenge howl, Lannen fires right back to keep the conversation going.

Ward's Georgia ZIP code is no different, and he mixes in prey-in-distress sounds, such as chickens or kittens in distress, to troll the so-called predator waters. These sounds may call in a coyote, bobcat or the overabundant gray fox.

"I was trying to impress a plantation owner one year and get him to give me

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permission to hunt his property. A trapper had been working the area so I used a setup that would work for anything within hearing distance thinking predator numbers would be low. Boy was I blessed. I called in two coyotes on the first stand. It impressed the landowner, but on the second set I called in a coyote and a bobcat. It made that guy take notice that calling can be just as effective as trapping for predator management. And yes, I got permission to continue hunting the property."

Interestingly, when Ward does want an all-out push on coyotes he uses gray-fox-in-distress. His experience shows that coyotes respond as well or better to gray fox cries when compared to rabbit distress "any day."

ALL-POINTS TIP

Lannen and Ward's approach to calling as many species as possible has merit everywhere. Most locations house coyotes, foxes and bobcats. In recent years mountain lions have been reclaiming their previous coast-to-coast haunts, plus black bears also are adaptable to many environments across the country. That noted, you never



MORE MEDICINE Pack ample shooting irons into the field. Although the rifle is the tool of choice for most predator hunters, toting a shotgun as a primary or backup gun could expand your success. In dense cover it gives you a wider pattern to tackle surprise encounters. In urban settings the decreased range of shot pellets cuts the risk of a stray projectile heading toward suburbia. And with multiple coyotes coming to a call you have the option to shoot a distant coyote with the rifle and tackle close-up coyotes with the scattergun.

Ammunition companies have been heeding the call with specialized shotshells to handle tough predators. Hornady, for example, offers a Heavy Magnum Coyote shotshell in two, 12-gauge, 3-inch offerings. Both include 1½ ounces of nickel-plated lead shot with your choice of BB or the baseball-bat slam of buckshot.

If urban regulations allow it, you may want to consider an air rifle, the shooting iron of choice for Ward when hunting in the patio world. Ward's current setup is a .25-caliber, suppressed Airforce Condor SS. It shoots a 50-grain hollow-point projectile that leaves the barrel at 1000 fps, delivers 100 ft.-lbs. of energy and is effective to 65 yards. Gen 3 night optics provide vision for patio assaults after dark. He also has a non-suppressed version with a killing range to 100 yards. This isn't a Red Ryder, but it will still shoot the eye out of a varmint when called to duty.



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know what will show up so send a warm welcome for everyone.

Since the top predators often prey on predators lower on the pyramid, you don't want to use sounds that may send the lesser ones scurrying for cover. A good example is the current trend of using coyote vocalizations. Howls may tempt a call-shy coyote into range, but rest assured no red fox, bobcat or even mountain lion will show. Sounds to mimic at the start include those from the little animal section. Few predators can ignore the tasty snack of a cottontail, a wounded bird or a squeaking squirrel.

Embrace a Batman Schedule

"Ninety percent of my calling and hunting is done at night," states Lannen. "As soon as it starts getting dark I'll go out and howl to locate them. If I get a response it's all about getting close and finding a field you can call them into. If my maps show that the area is all timber, I'll mark the location and return right at shooting light. It's not only hard to navigate in the woods at night, but it's also difficult to see coyotes coming to your call."

Using a red-lens headlamp, Lannen scans the fields for coyotes circling and when he spots eyes, he brightens the scene with a red-lens Night Eyes predator light. He only adds the shooting light seconds before he pulls the trigger to avoid spooking coyotes from the brightened scene.

"Coyotes are more talkative and active at night where I hunt. In fact, it's rare to hear a daytime coyote howling. Last year I heard one howl at 8 in the morning, and that's the latest I've ever heard one talking," adds Lannen.

Ward's no stranger to hunting coyotes at night, especially with the drop in prices for Gen 2 and Gen 3 night-vision products. And as coyotes expand into urban areas, he knows they prowl neighborhoods after dark. In the right area, it's the perfect recipe for success.

"I had one coyote elude me for months on a property inside city limits adjacent to an airport. The property has a clause to allow the discharge of a firearm to protect cattle, but I still couldn't corner the coyote in daylight. Finally I asked the landowner if I could hunt at night," tells Ward. "After starting calls I spotted the coyotes coming

continued on p. 95 >>

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Into the Timber for Whitetails

After several years of study in “whitetail university” among the oak-covered landscape of his small piece of Kansas, the author has learned two valuable lessons:

The deer do the teaching, and he’s a pretty dumb student.

By Craig Boddington

Dark was falling fast when the shot jarred me. In our rolling oak ridges, we’ve learned it’s impossible to tell exactly where a shot came from, but it wasn’t far and I had hopes. Then my cell phone rang. “Got a buck, looks like a good one. It’s just under my stand!”

That was good news but not enough information. Not meaning to be a wet blanket, I said, “Congrats ... but *who* is speaking, and *where are you?*”



Photo: Vic Schendel



Photo: Vic Schendel

Shocked pause, then: “Oh, this is Max, I’m at the Valley Stand.” Breathing hard and accelerating, he added, “It’s a really nice buck. He came across the creek just at dark, stopped when I raised the rifle, and ... ”

Yes, it was a nice buck, a heavy-racked 9-pointer, taken by Max Monbouquette, in his early 20s, out of college and working his first job. He’d done some pig and deer hunting and was a really nice young guy, extremely keen. I knew this was his first whitetail ... but I didn’t know this was his *first buck*. No wonder he was excited; so was I.

Home-Place Whitetails

During a long career I’ve been extremely fortunate to do a lot of the stuff we all love to do, but just like 10 million other American hunters I get more excited about deer hunting than anything. I have a small piece of southeast Kansas dirt that serves as my whitetail university, except the deer are the teachers, and I’m a pretty dumb student.

In other parts of the country, Kansas is often viewed as the Promised Land for big bucks. Indeed it’s good, with a high buck-to-doe ratio maintained by a one-buck limit and aided by a short post-rut rifle season. But there aren’t Boone and Crockett bucks behind every bush—at least not at my place! My area is not the Great Plains, and there are no Yellow Brick Roads. We have thick oak ridges, not much different from southern Missouri and Arkansas. It’s heavy timber with limited agriculture; it is not easy whitetail hunting.

I’ve had this farm for eight years; the last few seasons neighbor Chuck Herbel and I have pooled our properties and run

a (very) small “guided operation.” This has steepened my learning curve, but it hasn’t done much for my own deer hunting. We do okay, but we are not a “100 percent” area. The timber is too thick, and the post-rut rifle season is too fickle. Actually, I shouldn’t complain: I’ve taken a buck every year, but I have the whole season so I can bowhunt early when I wish to, and during rifle season I slip out when I can. None have been the Midwest monsters we dream of, but that means they’re still there in the woods!

Ooops!

Just when I think I have things figured the deer throw me a curve. I have a stand up on an oak-covered ridge, one of the original spots. My first morning on that stand I watched a procession of 14 bucks from small to large, some right under the stand. A buddy was on the next ridge, and I didn’t want to shoot until he got a buck,



so I didn’t. And although I’ve sat there many times since, to this day no deer have been taken from that stand. The issue is food sources. We had acorns then, but we had five dry years with no acorns. The last two years have been better.

It was in 2013 when Chuck and I discovered Max’s “Valley Stand.” Acorns were spotty, but down below the Ridge Stand we found a pocket. Better, it wasn’t far from my major food plot, and the trails were like highways. We figured it a “staging area” where deer might pause before going to the food plot after dark. With an archery hunt coming on, we put in a stand.

I put a guy there his first evening ... and he saw nothing. The next evening I wanted him back there but he preferred his morning spot (where he’d seen deer). Well, the customer is always right and, after all, to some extent whitetail hunting is a crapshoot. So I put him out, and I went back to the house and started to write a story. Then it occurred to me that it was my birthday (never mind which one). I shouldn’t be working. So I went down to the Valley Stand. That was my second mistake. The third was taking the bow. I hadn’t been there a half-hour before I arrowed the best buck I’ve taken on the place. My first mistake: Well, I should have been more insistent. I believed the Valley Stand would produce, I just didn’t know when.

Same Deer, Different Year

I’m still learning. I will never be an expert whitetail hunter, if there is such a thing. One of the things I have learned is that every year is different.

Archery season doesn’t change much, at least in terms of deer activity. Halloween



Photos: Author

sees a lot of rubbing and scraping, with the peak hitting somewhere in mid-November.

Rifle season starts on the Wednesday after Thanksgiving. We hope for a rut that kicks off late or stretches out a bit. Opening day is usually pretty crazy. Then deer movement tapers off and things get tougher. Toward the end movement usually picks up, often with some secondary rut activity. But it depends heavily on the weather.

Rifle Season 2014

One word: Tough! Daughter Caroline and I bowhunted Thanksgiving weekend, and although we blanked out, we had bucks chasing, cruising, scraping everywhere! Four days 'til rifle season, looking good! Then a major cold front came through and the rut shut down. There was residual activity in the woods, but the visible chasing never resumed. Movement got a bit

A hunch led to Max Monbouquette's first buck, left, in 2014, and a birthday buck for the author the year before.

better at the end of the season, but I wasn't surprised. We aren't far from Oklahoma so, technically, our deer are probably the *texanus* subspecies, not the *macrourus* race of northern and western Kansas. I've seen this too often: Cold weather shuts

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them down, and in 2014 a visibly active rut never resumed.

There were two other major factors, one clearly against us, the other neutral depending on how you deal with it. At the start of the season the moon was already bright and coming full. Since the season is fixed, there is nothing to be done about that but accept that a full moon reduces daytime movement. We got good rains, so through the summer we recognized that we were going to have the best acorn crop in five years. Our whitetails love their acorns, so I expected most movement to be in the woods. This isn't necessarily bad, but it would mean that our feeders were useless, clearings and food plots not much better.

This was predictable, but movement in the latter part of archery season fooled me. Feeders were mostly ignored, but until that cold front hit we saw lots of deer cruising open areas, including several bucks I'd never seen before. I knew that weather change would slow things, but it took precious days to appreciate the full impact. A cool and cloudy opening day came in absolute, eerie silence, no shots anywhere.

This was unprecedented and depressing, and it continued to the weekend. Our hunters saw a few bucks. Most were small and consciously passed, which is good. A couple of nice bucks slipped past without offering a clean shot, which is not good but happens. We also had a couple of failures to thread the needle, which is a nice way to say that, *er*, trees were hit instead of the bucks moving through said trees. In timber hunting this also happens. But, Lord, it was the morning of the third day before the first buck was taken!

This one, a clean 10-pointer, cut across the corner of my major food plot and my old friend Ed Segar pasted him. To some extent this signaled the end of what had been at least a 96-hour shut-down. That evening before sundown Paul Cestoni flattened a high-racked, mature 8-pointer, also cutting across an open area on Chuck's place.

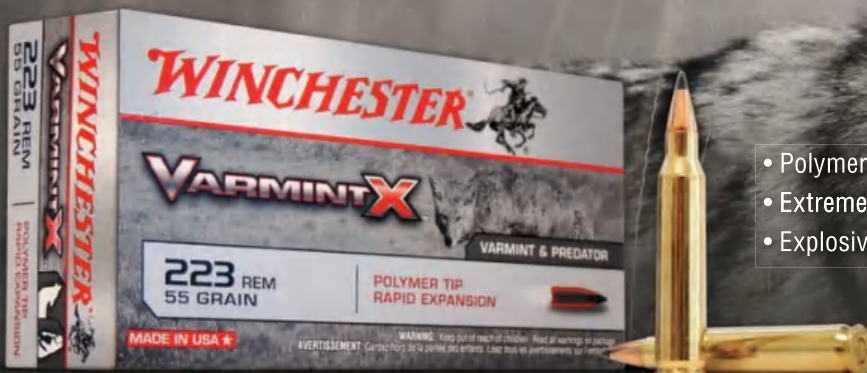
Into the Woods

Despite these two successes in "normal" areas it was pretty clear what was happening: The deer were in the woods, scarfing

down our record mast crop. This is not a major problem. We have stands covering our feeders and food plots, but the majority of our country is oak woods. So the majority of our stands are in the woods, overlooking key trails, and rub and scrape lines. Some of these are repeated year after year, but every year we find something new and interesting, so we move unproductive stands or add new ones. Several stands have produced bucks in multiple years: Old Box, Hagen, Rimrock, Spencer, Taj ... now Valley. We have others that have produced multiple bucks in one season, like House and Pecan Grove. And we have others that I judge to be as good or better, but from which no bucks have been taken. One of these is my favorite Ridge Stand, which blows so hot and cold it must be bipolar.

Even with the best planning, scouting and stand-sitting, hunting whitetails in timber is somewhat random ... and rarely easy. Wind and movement will mess up things, and often you aren't even aware that you've been messed up. Despite the best planning and most astute reading of sign, whitetails move as they

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will, so a right-handed shot becomes a left-handed shot, or a deer comes from directly behind and you never know until you hear the alarm snort: *Game over!*

It's not easy to sit still, and I'd be the first to say that I hate it—but we don't have options. Carpeted with dry leaves, our woods are just too noisy for still-hunting. If, just once, we got a foot of fresh snow during the season I fantasize that we could creep into Bucky's bedroom. Maybe we could, but in eight years only the lightest skiff of snow has fallen during rifle season. After a few days of fruitless sitting someone always asks about organizing drives. Uh, we've tried that. We can stir up deer and send them to the neighbors, but our woods are too big, with too many escape routes and too few channelizing features.

What we should do—some of our hunters do it but I simply cannot—is sit longer, and most especially in the timber. In the deep woods there's a fair amount of midday movement. I think this is especially common when the moon is bright. You can't do anything about nocturnal movement—but the deer aren't likely to stay

bedded in one place all day. No matter the moon, the woods are sanctuary, and there will be midday movement. This may be especially true during deer season; it doesn't take deer long to figure out that at dawn and dusk the woods are full of bad-smelling pumpkin-clad creatures, while during the midday hours things are quieter.

On the last day of the season, Sunday, young Max (he of the big 9-pointer) still wanted to fill his doe tag. Most of our hunters had departed, and the forecast was for "100 percent chance of rain by 4 p.m." I put him back out in the woods about noon, and when the rain started at 3:30 (ahead of schedule!) I went to pick him up. His eyes were as big as saucers. No, he hadn't seen a doe, but he'd seen six bucks, including a couple of dandies.

Playing Hunches

It really is a guessing game. Although we adjust continuously, we think all of our stands are in pretty good spots. But in all stand-hunting the ultimate move that puts a buck in your sights is up to the deer. Like pro football, anybody can win. So,

although preparation is surely a factor, it comes down to patience, dumb luck and (slightly) educated guesses.

In 2014 Derek Barnes from Alberta was with us for the second year. Why an Alberta whitetail hunter would come to southeast Kansas is somewhat beyond me, except our weather is nicer. He passed some deer in '13, but he didn't take a buck. Now we were down to his last morning, still no buck, and Chuck and I were feeling horrible. We have a stand across a creek in some really thick woods (now named after Derek), a rub line running diagonally in front of it. Nobody had sat there for a year, but it seemed worth a last-ditch try.

A nice buck slipped in at 7:30 and Derek pasted him. It was a gorgeous clear morning, so Derek kicked back in the stand for a little while, perhaps thinking about the subzero cold he was going home to. When he got down to admire his buck, another one stepped out of the woods and looked at him. Derek knows whitetails, and I accept his judgment: Clean 10-point: 23 or 24 inches wide; long, heavy beams, tips past his nose; long points all the way—a classic



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typical B&C buck, 180-inch class. We'd never seen that buck before, and may never see him again!

Max's 9-pointer was based purely on an educated guess, a hunch. I sat with hunters overlooking my major food plot a couple of times, and while we saw little in the open I caught glimpses of a couple of bucks cutting across the farthest corner of the field. My theory was that, just maybe, we had some deer movement paralleling the field in the woods; the deer were using those trails near the Valley Stand. No one had been there since the beginning of archery season, but just at sunset Max's buck paralleled the food plot and crossed the creek, and Max dropped him just under the stand.

Gary Darley took another nice buck from that same patch of woods, probably 600 yards to the northeast below some hidden rimrock, the (*duh!*) Rimrock Stand. That wasn't exactly a hunch; given patience, that stand produces almost every year. Gary had patience, and on his fourth morning a buck did exactly what it was supposed to do.

My 2014 buck was purely a hunch—or maybe just blind luck. I hoped to take a buck during archery season, but that didn't happen, and with the rifle opener so slow I didn't hunt. At the mid-season break, Monday afternoon, I went to a distant stand on an oak-covered knob. Henceforth known as Craig's Knoll, we'd never taken a deer there, but it overlooked several converging trails and a major scrape line.

At 5 o'clock a deer impossible to identify walked through thick stuff to my right. After a long pause, he walked slowly into view, then out of sight behind three trees and tended a scrape 30 yards behind the stand. As he moved I got a good look at the body and the shape: very big and very mature. Honest, since this might have been my only evening to hunt for myself I hardly looked at the antlers, although I was sure he was a big 8-pointer.

We use two-man treestands, and my old friend Conrad Evarts was with me on the camera. We had enough cover to get turned around, but now Conrad could see the buck clearly, while for me it was still behind those three pesky trees. So Conrad rolled camera and I waited, and when the buck finally took one step forward I shot him in the center of that thick neck. I wish all my hunches paid off that well. They don't, but give me a few more years! **ah**

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Howa Mini Action

By Brad Fitzpatrick

Just in time for the peak of predator season, Japanese manufacturer Howa recently teamed up with Nevada-based Legacy Sports International to introduce the lightweight Mini Action rifle. Available in .204 Ruger, .222 Rem. and .223 Rem., the Mini Action utilizes the same push-feed bolt with dual-opposed locking lugs found on Howa 1500-series rifles, but company engineers significantly shortened the bolt to provide a lighter, trimmer action that's perfect for the walking varmint hunter. The bolt length is almost an inch shorter than that of Howa's short-action (.308 Win. class) rifles, which reduces the weight of the bolt by 3 ounces. Put more practically, the new Mini Action is one of the lightest center-fire varmint rifles around.

Howa mates Mini Action receivers to short-drawn barrels in three different contours. The Lightweight version gets a No. 1 contour, 20-inch barrel and has a weight of just 5.7 pounds, making it a great option for mobile hunters who want to hunt all day without dragging around a heavy gun. There's also a Standard version with a No. 2 contour, 22-inch barrel, while the Heavy model comes with a No. 6 barrel that's chopped at 20 inches. "Heavy" refers to the barrel only here, because even this version weighs just 6.6 pounds. All three Mini Action variations have a synthetic stock available with a black, olive-drab green or Kryptek Highlander camo finish.

This lightweight, compact rifle is made even better for the field with the addition of the Howa Actuator Controlled Trigger, or HACT, a two-stage design that requires minimal take-up and offers a crisp, clean break. The trigger on the Mini Action I tested, a Heavy model in .223 Rem., consistently broke at a bit less than 3.5 pounds and allowed for very accurate shooting.

Another notable addition to the Mini Action is the Ammo Boost detachable magazine that debuted on Howa's Alpine Rifle. Box magazines are available in five- or 10-round configurations, and their plastic construction is impervious to the elements. The magazine release lever is positioned at the front of the magazine well.

While the Ammo Boost design doesn't preclude topping off the magazine through the action port, the Mini Action's reduced port makes the process tougher than it would be with a full-size action. I believe most shooters will find it's simpler and faster to just drop the magazine for reloading. Anyone who spends time thumbing .223 rounds into a metal box magazine will appreciate how quickly and easily you can load rounds

into the plastic Ammo Boost magazine, and even after a long session on the range you won't be suffering from sore thumbs.

Aside from its abbreviated action and the new Ammo Boost system, the Mini Action will seem familiar to anyone acquainted with the Howa 1500. There's a three-position, rocker-type safety on the right side of the receiver, a flat-tip bolt-release button on the left side, and the top of the receiver is drilled and tapped for mounting optics. The rifle I tested was part of a package that included a Nikko-Stirling Panamax 3X-9X-40mm scope. Even with the optic in place and the heavy-contour barrel, the rifle weighed just 7.4 pounds. The scoped Mini Action with a light-contour barrel weighs in at a mere 6.6 pounds. With an overall length of less than 40 inches, these rifles are maneuverable in thick cover.

Howa's push-feed budget guns have a reputation for accuracy, and the Mini Action certainly did not disappoint. From 100 yards, every load I tested had a group average of about





HOWA MINI ACTION

legacysports.com

- **Type:** bolt-action centerfire rifle
- **Caliber:** .204 Ruger, .222 Rem., .223 Rem. (tested)
- **Barrel:** 20"; short-drawn No. 6 contour; 4 grooves, 1:9" RH twist
- **Trigger:** two-stage HACT; 3.4-lb. pull weight
- **Magazine:** Ammo Boost detachable box; 10-rnd. capacity
- **Sights:** Nikko-Stirling Panamax 3X-9X-40mm scope (package as tested); drilled and tapped for optics
- **Safety:** three-position toggle
- **Stock:** straight-comb synthetic; OD green, soft-touch finish; LOP 13.87"
- **Metal Finish:** blued
- **Overall Length:** 39.5"
- **Weight:** 6.6 lbs. (rifle only)
- **MSRP:** \$782 (with scope), \$681 (rifle only)

an inch or better. The most accurate was Black Hills' 69-grain Sierra MatchKing load, which averaged just .66 inch and produced the best group of the day at slightly more than .4 inch off sandbags. This level of accuracy belies the Mini Action's affordable price tag.

With a soft-touch finish and finger grooves along the forearm, the synthetic stock felt firm and natural in my hand. The pistol grip has a slight swell, and the deep curve offered a secure and comfortable hold. Also, the shortened action does more than just reduce weight: With the minimized bolt stroke you can reload faster and deliver quick follow-up shots, perfect for doubling down on incoming song dogs. Even from a cramped sitting position I could quickly and easily cycle the action with a flick of the wrist.

Twice I accidentally hit the forward-positioned magazine release lever when

I moved my front hand back on the forearm. Dropping a magazine in the midst of shooting a pair of coyotes is no good, but I quickly learned how to avoid the lever. When I wanted to reload, it was a fast and intuitive system.

I'd love to see a version of this rifle with a threaded muzzle, because the Howa Mini Action is just begging to have a suppressor mounted to it. With suggested retail prices starting at just \$608 (sans scope) this is an accurate rifle that should draw the attention of any predator or varmint hunter, especially if you like to change setups often. *dh*

Accuracy Results* Howa Mini Action .223 Rem.

Load	Weight (grs.)	Smallest	Group Size In Inches Average	Largest
Hornady V-Max	40	0.92	1.07	1.17
Nosler Varmageddon	55	0.60	0.81	0.95
Black Hills Sierra MatchKing	69	0.41	0.66	0.85

* Outdoors | Sandbags | 100 Yards | 3-Shot Group



Predator hunters wearing gloves will like the easy-to-operate magazine release lever and three-position safety.

Photos: Forrest MacCormack

Ruger New Model Super Blackhawk

By Max Prasac



I can't figure out what's wrong with me. I have an inability to say no when asked to test firearms that I find irresistible, irrespective of the parameters of the test. Ruger engineers told me last year that I was on a short list to test the .454 Casull and .480 Ruger Super Blackhawk single-action revolvers. They said something about being recoil-proof and a glutton for punishment in explaining why I had been chosen for this honor. My wife neatly sums up these "qualities" with one word: numb. "No problem," I said, "and thanks—I think." I love a challenge.

In February, a call from my FFL indicated that the first installment had arrived along with a couple hundred rounds of .454 Casull ammunition of various manufacture and bullet weights. I tested that revolver to the tune of nearly 1,000 rounds in a short period of time. Shortly thereafter, a

.480 Ruger Super Blackhawk arrived, and this time my FFL told me I should bring my truck to haul all of this ammo out of the entryway of his house. Turns out his wife was not too pleased about the 400 pounds of ammunition stacked like cordwood next to the front door!

Ever since Sturm, Ruger & Company released the .480 Ruger in the love-it-or-hate-it Super Redhawk in 2001, revolver aficionados have been brow-beating Ruger to offer this cartridge in its popular single-action lineup. The combination of Super Blackhawk and .480 Ruger is debated incessantly on gun websites, yet Ruger's reticence to make this happen has frustrated handgun hunters who have long

wanted to see this marriage come to fruition. Basically a shortened .475 Linebaugh, the .480 Ruger is a serious big-game hunting round that even when loaded to spec isn't too abusive to the one pulling the trigger. Ruger has finally relented by offering not only the .480 Ruger in the Super Blackhawk line, but also the raucous .454 Casull. Handgun hunters everywhere have reason to rejoice as two of their favorite calibers can be had in the revolver they love at an affordable price. Both are available as Lipsey's distributor exclusives, but I want to focus on the .480 here.

The new revolvers are based on the old revolvers. Ruger used the standard Super Blackhawk frame in 415 stainless steel. The barrel is 6.5 inches long on both models (at least initially) and made from 15-5 stainless steel, with a 1:18-inch twist for the .480 Ruger. It has no taper and features a front sight base that is silver soldered on with a pinned-in sight blade, while the rear sight is the standard Ruger adjustable setup.

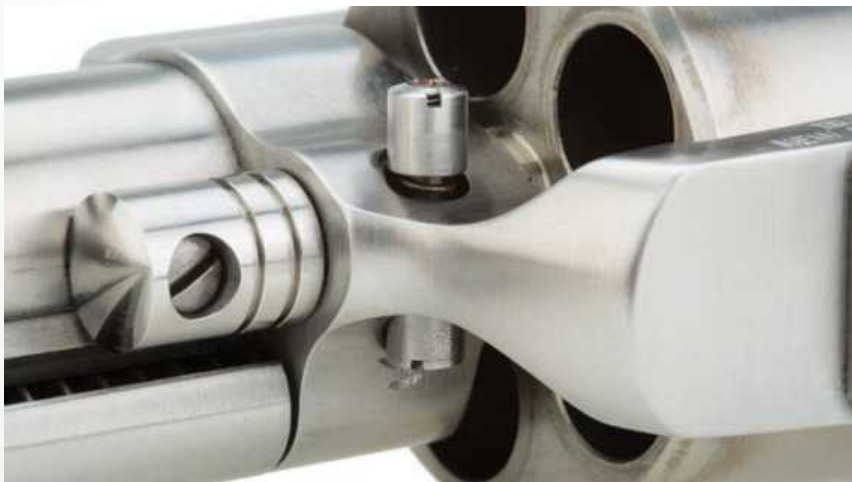


Accuracy Results* Ruger New Model Super Blackhawk .480 Ruger

Load	Weight (grs.)	Average Group Size in Inches	
		25 Yards	50 Yards
Buffalo Bore solid copper hollow-point	275	1.09	2.42
Buffalo Bore hardcast	370	0.96	1.11
Buffalo Bore hardcast	410	0.58	1.42

* Indoors | Sandbags | 25 & 50 Yards | 5-Shot Group

Photos: Forrest MacCormack



The unfluted cylinder is carved from 465 Carpenter steel, the super-strong, hard-to-machine material that first made an appearance in the late 1990s in the .454 Casull Super Redhawk (and later in the .480 Ruger version of the same). A five-shot configuration, the cylinder is counter-bored to encapsulate the case heads. Dimensionally the cylinder is like that of the .44 Magnum Super Blackhawk, save for a tiny bit more length to the rear to compensate for the recessed case heads.

The new revolvers are fitted with an extra-long ejector rod housing that was introduced on the limited run of stretch-frame .357 Maximum revolvers of the early 1980s. A Bisley grip frame is the only one offered and the only one Ruger deemed acceptable for the new Super Blackhawks. A locking base pin guards against the pin walking out under recoil, a nice touch.

Recoil means something different to every shooter. While I am no stranger to recoil, these relatively lightweight powerhouses pack a wallop on both ends. It's not the worst you may encounter, but it's a considerable step up from the venerable .44 Magnum. The .480 produces what is best described as a heavy push.

The new .480 Super Blackhawk delivered outstanding accuracy, the only limits being my vision with iron sights, so I equipped the revolver with a red dot-type sight from JP Enterprises. The trigger was pretty good, exhibiting a minimum of creep. I own a number of more expensive

RUGER NEW MODEL SUPER BLACKHAWK

ruger.com

- **Type:** single-action revolver
- **Caliber:** .454 Casull, .480 Ruger (tested)
- **Capacity:** 5 rnds.
- **Barrel:** 6.5"; stainless steel; 6 grooves, 1:18" RH twist
- **Trigger Pull Weight:** 4.5 lbs.
- **Sights:** adjustable rear notch, fixed front blade
- **Grips:** Bisley; laminated hardwood
- **Metal Finish:** stainless steel
- **Overall Length:** 12.4"
- **Weight:** 49.2 ozs.
- **MSRP:** \$969

revolvers that cannot compete with the accuracy of this new Ruger.

I got the opportunity to test the new .480 Ruger on porcine flesh at Hog Heaven Outfitters of Johnston County, N.C. On the first day a 200-plus-pound boar made the mistake of showing up. The shot was high on the shoulder, broadside at about 45 yards, and required only one Buffalo Bore 370-grain bullet to seal the deal. My testing was complete.

Ruger and Lipsey's have finally given us what we want. What was once a custom-only and cost-prohibitive proposition is now only a phone call, and less than \$1,000, away from being yours. Evidently Ruger is listening. *ah*

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Trijicon AccuPower

By John Zent, Editorial Director



How much treestand or elk mountain cred is Trijicon due given how well its rock-hard battle-rifle sights have served U.S. troops at war? That was the obvious question when the company diversified into all-purpose riflescopes a few years back, and it remains a key issue with the recent introduction of the AccuPower, a four-scope collection largely geared toward big-game hunters.

The AccuPowers differ from the first-gen AccuPoints in some significant ways, but what's immediately apparent is how solid they are, just like the earlier scopes, and just like Trijicon ACOG and RMR combat sights. You won't find any plastic parts on an AccuPower. Apart from lens surfaces, what you get is a precision-machined billet of aircraft-grade, hard-anodized aluminum rendered in the bulbous lines of high-end European optics. It's a unit that feels a bit heavy for its size. Under the tight-fitting turret caps, you find adjustment wheels that turn a bit stiffly and click-stops as deliberate as those on a high-grade socket wrench. The magnification ring is equally stiff and sure-handed. There's no slop.

There's a reason why I'm choosing to focus first on ruggedness and durability. While I appreciate light transmission and sharpness as much as the next gear-head, what matters most to me is that a scope holds its zero and proves so dependable and durable that I come to take for granted it'll shoot straight and deliver useful sight pictures every time out for as long as I own it. That's the same if it costs \$300 or five times that much.

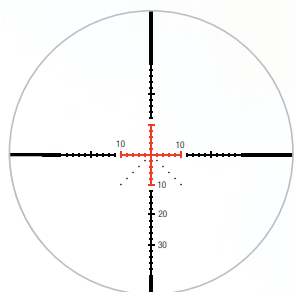
In fact cost is one key difference between the AccuPower and its AccuPoint predecessor. Selling via online outlets at prices ranging from \$600 to \$900, the new line costs roughly 25 percent less.

The major functional change in the AccuPower is how the illuminated reticle works. Whereas the AccuPoint—like other mainstay Trijicon optics—relies on tritium plus fiber optics to power its reticle, the AccuPower contains a battery. The reticle is in the second focal plane (non-magnifying) and can be had in red or green, delivered by an LED in 11 brightness increments with “off” between each step. The turret adjustment click values are the familiar .25 MOA or .1 mil. Battery life at max setting is rated at 31 hours, though that level would be too bright for me in any scenario short of glaring snow cover.

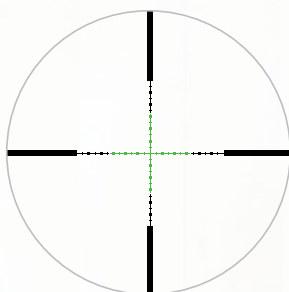
For all but the fussiest users, the AccuPower's imaging performance will be more than satisfactory. The field it delivers is evenly sharp and clear, with only minimal fringing in transitional minutes early and late in the day. And in fact the hunting day was all but over as outfitter Hunter Ross and I hurried to close in on a big axis buck traveling with a 20-doe harem and a few acolyte bucks.

We hit now-or-never time at 180 yards, the only option being a shot from sticks. As the lead does trotted off, I waited for the spotted buck to clear a fringe of cover, then when it stepped free the opportunity crystallized and my shot hit true. In the 10 minutes it took to cross the draw to where the herd buck lay dead,

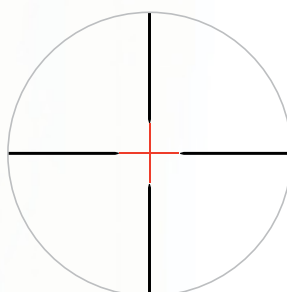
Photos: Forrest MacCormack



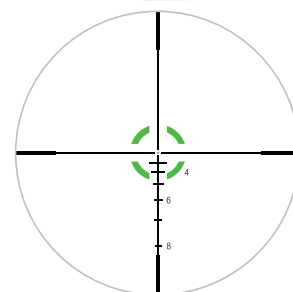
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Segmented Circle/Dot

the full moon came up over the Texas Hill Country. Though it was early July, these bucks had just shed velvet and were entering their rut, acting much like elk in the way they vocalized and tended females. They were rangier than our native white-tails and were spooky as deerkind should be. Fortunately, herd numbers were high, and not because the ranch's wildlife could not move on. We had left the high fences behind and were hunting strictly free-ranging game. Two days later, my partner, Trijicon's Chuck Wahr, also got his chance right before quitting time but not without some busted stalks along the way. It was one of the first hunts with his company's new scopes and a fitting debut.

Later, I compared the 3x-9x-40mm AccuPower side-to-side with an AccuPoint having the same specs and found their image-transmission capabilities quite close. I spied two young velvet-antlered whitetails browsing in deep shadows at dusk and could clearly count five little points on one deer and three on the other. With both scopes I could read headlines like the one on this spread at 53 yards (in full daylight), and from 100 yards, I could distinguish black-and-white soccer ball sections until 20 minutes after sunset. In virtually all legal daylight hunting, Trijicon scopes will hang in well past the end. The AccuPower's field of view is also marginally wider than what you'll see through most other brands, including the AccuPoint.

The only trouble I ran into was mounting the scope on a long-action Weatherby Mark V. Both the objective bell and eye-piece are lengthy, so there's not much free tube. That's not going to pose a problem



During a trial on fair-chase axis deer in Texas, the author was impressed by the AccuPower's ruggedness and image delivery. Its precise click-stops, along with smart model and reticle options, will serve most hunting applications.

on short-action rifles or when using one-piece bases, but owners of certain long- and magnum-length hunting rifles may need to use extension rings. These scopes are about 20 percent heavier than the corresponding AccuPoints—which certainly will be a concern to mountain hunters. For the rest of us, that bulk, which I believe reflects the scopes' inherent ruggedness, can actually help us hold our rifles steadier when shooting.

With just four models, it's probably a stretch to say the AccuPowers can do it all, but in fact they intelligently span the current rifleman's landscape. Apart from its green LED reticle, my 3x-9x-40mm test unit built on a 1-inch tube is as mainstream as big-game optics come. The others, all with 30mm tubes, will meet the diverse needs of today's shooters and hunters, from 3-gun and AR fans favoring the 1x-4x-24mm (also perfect for dangerous game), to tactical and long-range guys who want bigger glass in

TRIJICON ACCUPOWER

trijicon.com

- **Type:** variable-power riflescope
- **Magnification:** 1X-4X, 3X-9X (tested), 2.5X-10X, 4X-16X
- **Objective Lens Diameter:** 24mm, 40mm (tested), 50mm, 56mm
- **Eye Relief:** 3.7"-3.5"
- **Exit Pupil:** 13.3mm (3X), 4.4mm (9X)
- **Field of View @ 100 Yds:** 35.5' (3X), 11.8' (9X)
- **Reticle:** second focal plane; illuminated; Duplex (tested), MOA, Mil-Square, Segmented Circle-Dot; CR2032 lithium battery power source
- **Adjustments:** .25 MOA
- **Coatings:** fully multi-coated
- **Dimensions:** tube diameter 1"; length 12.3"; weight 17 ozs.
- **Construction:** one-piece, hard-anodized aluminum tube; nitrogen-filled, waterproof, fog-proof
- **MSRP:** \$699



the form of the 2.5x-10x-56mm or the 4x-16x-50mm. You can feel the soundness in these optics and the Trijicon mil-spec DNA is unmistakable. That merits a whole lot of cred in my book. **ah**

gear

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Flextone Hail Mary

Need to go long and loud to reach distant mallards? Toss 'em a few notes from the Hail Mary Single Reed from Flextone, and this "last resort" will become a standard tool in your open-water playbook. The 1.5-inch single-reed requires a bit more voice, but it chuckles easily and quacks like the nastiest birds with more tone variation than its double-reed teammates. It wears a Realtree AP camo jersey. \$30; flextonegamecalls.com

Cabela's Northern Flight SLG

The SL in Cabela's Northern Flight SLG Canada goose call stands for "second language;" after all, it pays to be multilingual when anything from small cacklers to giants can come into your spread. Short-reed design allows tremendous pitch ranges, and fast pick-up lets you go from a low growl to high-reaching honks and pops, all with little air pressure. \$99; cabelas.com

Flambeau Storm Front Ice Box

The Storm Front Ice Box duck call from Flambeau will put birds in the freezer whether you're hunting flooded timber or open water. Double-reed design produces soft quacks and feed chuckles and those loud and nasty comeback calls for high-circling birds. Here's a made-in-America, polycarbonate call at a bargain price. \$20; flambeauoutdoors.com

Duck Commander Jase Robertsen Pro Series

The Jase Robertson Pro Series from Duck Commander is built with a smaller chamber and new double-reed design that produces more vibration with less air. Jase proclaims its the easiest-blowing call the boys have ever made. And because it's hand tuned by one of the duckmen in West Monroe, La., you know it'll be one of the duckiest calls in the swamps. \$54; duckcommander.com

Zink NOS Polycarbonate

Easier to blow due to its longer overall length, the Nightmare on Stage Canada goose call from Zink has been bringing honkers into range since its creation. Now, with a molded polycarbonate body, this competition-winning design can be had for a fraction of the cost of its acrylic brethren. "Worn-in" tone channel system and short-reed design create perfect low-end tones, and let you rip loud and fast with minimal effort; three colors. \$37-\$69; zinkcalls.com



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Safeguarding our

By Laurie A. Luebbert, Managing Editor *America's 1st Freedom*

NRA-backed team trains first class of school security assessors as part of National School Shield program

Not long after Williamson County schoolchildren started their academic year in Tennessee, a dozen or so nontraditional students—all experienced law enforcement officials—were also going back to school.

But this class had a different agenda. These students were participating in a training seminar on ways to keep

officers were able to provide significant qualitative mitigation measures to enhance the school's security environment."

From Theoretical to the Practical

The course covered all the bases, from teaching participants the fundamentals of school security assessments to conducting a live assessment at a local

county has been proactive in stepping up school security ever since Sandy Hook.

"We've really grown our SRO (school resource officer) program since then," said Capt. Alan Laney of the county sheriff's office, adding that the county reassigned an additional 32 officers to various schools, "and Sheriff Jeff Long gave the SRO program a new focus on security."

Before, each school and its SRO were responsible for their individual schools; now, the county is trying for across-the-board uniformity in terms of school security. And having NSS security experts come in to teach gives them an outsider's view of the situation, Laney said.

The pay-off can come pretty soon after the training program, too. Already, the Tennessee folks are preparing to send their newly trained assessors out in force to rate schools. Since all of them are on the same page in terms of approach, that will allow for a consistent end product, Fletcher said.

Maximizing Local Resources

The assessor training program is designed to empower localities to play a more active role in better protecting their children. While outside consultants can be hired to assess a school district, Laney said his county's experience showed that such companies provide generalized overviews of the whole school system. With hands-on assessments done by people with a greater local interest, teams can focus more on individual campuses.

Learn more about how NSS protects schools.
Visit **nationalschoolshield.org**

young people safe—safe from weather emergencies, safe from fire, safe from the remote chance that violence could erupt on campus.

The four-day practicum, taught by an array of security experts, was the first official National School Shield (NSS) security assessor training class. It is one facet of the NSS program set up by the National Rifle Association in the aftermath of the December 2012 attack at Sandy Hook Elementary School as one way to keep our children more secure.

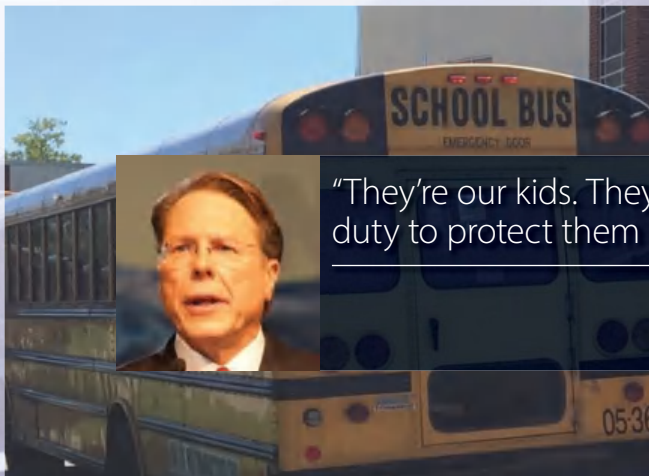
"The training program was received with overwhelming success ... with law enforcement officers identifying critical vulnerabilities in the school's security posture," said John Quattrone, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and a security adviser who has been involved in the initiative since its inception. "Additionally, law enforcement

K-12 school. During their walk-through at the school, participants talk to teachers, students and school employees, and they visually inspect the building, all under the guiding eye of security experts who coach them regarding what to ask and how best to verify information that someone gives them about a potential vulnerability.

"I felt the design of the course and the practical exercise was helpful in creating a consistent method of assessing schools. It provided great detail in the ways to organize an assessment that also included how to construct and present feedback to the school," said Michael Fletcher, safety and security director for Williamson County Schools and one of the trainees.

That Williamson County—which encompasses the bucolic horse country south of Nashville—hosted the first assessor training course was no accident. The

Photos by NRA Staff



"They're our kids. They're our responsibility. And it's not just our duty to protect them – it's our right to protect them."

– Wayne LaPierre, NRA Executive Vice President

Children, Investing in our Future



Part of the National School Shield security assessor training program requires students to conduct an on-site security assessment at a school, as this participant is doing.

Additionally, by providing communities direct access to trained assessors, NSS is able to help schools maximize already strained security budgets.

"A lot of the schools do not have the resources. They can go out and get a private firm to do what we are offering to do for them but the assessment alone can cost anywhere from ten to twenty thousand dollars—and to a lot of schools, that is a lot of money. We are doing that for them for practically nothing," said David Keene, past president of the NRA and chairman of the NSS Advisory Council.

Parameters of the Program

One aspect of the training program is that the students learn how to make a persuasive argument to get what they need. "We might know the basics," Laney said, "but now we are learning how to fight for the improvements."

The agenda for the inaugural assessor training course earned praise.

"They now have the ability to conduct an unbiased fact-finding assessment," Quattrone said. "Many of the students commented afterward that, while they were familiar with much of the course material itself, the class gave them ... a keener ability to spot vulnerabilities and recommend appropriately scaled security enhancements."

"Attending the National School Shield training gave me a new skill which I can use to help my community protect

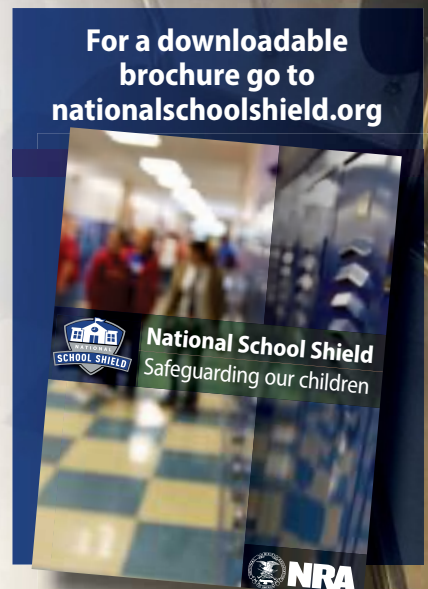
our children. By learning how to spot vulnerabilities, I can help all stakeholders in the safety of our children do our best to protect them. The training not only reminded me of things I had previously learned, but it gave me new resources that I can employ in assessments of any school facility," said Cpl. Michael Johnson of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, a participant in the training.

After the students performed their walk-through at the host school, they went back to the classroom and learned how to create an effective presentation that identified strengths and potential vulnerabilities based on industry best practices. Sometimes that can be as simple as having a school maintenance worker fix a door that won't shut and lock easily or having landscapers trim trees so field of vision from inside the building is not obstructed; other times, mitigating the potential vulnerabilities requires more funding—which can be a challenge for cash-strapped districts.

That's another area where the National School Shield program can help, thanks to a grant program designed to support schools that want to make security improvements.

"While the assessment is a cornerstone of the National School Shield program, the grant component is an equally important piece of the puzzle," said Sheila Brantley, NSS program director. "For schools that have identified areas in need of improvement but face a lack of available resources to address security needs, NSS grants fulfilled by The NRA Foundation serve as a vital resource.

"That is what I believe makes the National School Shield program so attractive—by providing tools and resources designed to help schools identify potential security vulnerabilities, as well as the funding to implement necessary security improvements, the program helps remove the barriers to information and/or funding that have previously slowed progress in making our schools more secure. There is nothing more critical to our nation's well-being than our children's safety, and the National School Shield is our commitment to that effort." *dh*



ILA report: Latest legislative news from inside the NRA Institute for Legislative Action

Politifact Flip-Flops to Advocate Anti-Gun Narrative

As we've reported in the past, one of the more favored—yet discredited—claims made by gun control advocates is that 40 percent of firearm transfers take place without a background check. Fact checkers have routinely pointed out numerous problems with the 40 percent statistic, with the *Washington Post's* Glenn Kessler giving Obama three Pinocchios when the president cited the bogus claim back in 2013.

Unfortunately, it now appears that even the fact checkers need fact checkers. Linda Qui, writing for *Politifact*, wrote about the issue after Mark Kelly invoked the 40 percent claim during an Oct. 1 appearance on CNN. In her write-up, Qui rightly points out all the reasons why the 40 percent claim has been repeatedly rebuked by fact-checking organizations in the past, including *Politifact* itself.

The claim is based on a 1994 survey of only 251 people who told researchers they were gun owners. As anyone who has ever read a survey or poll knows, a sample size of 251 is insufficient to draw conclusions about the broader population under study. The researchers then asked of these 251 respondents how they came to have their firearms and whether or not a background check had been conducted.

Even if the sample size had been sufficiently large to represent the broader population, there are obvious problems with this methodology. It doesn't take a statistician to know

that of the 251 respondents, the researchers didn't actually verify whether or not they were actual firearm owners. Further, the researchers also relied on the memory of respondents to describe whether a background check had taken place. Many respondents likely couldn't remember the exact details the researchers were asking about.

More broadly, even if the methodological deficiencies are ignored, it's important to recall that the survey was conducted in 1994 and that the National Instant Criminal Background Check System wasn't operational at the national level until 1998.

Even after recognizing these shortcomings, Qui shifts from an explanation of why the 40 percent claim is bogus to an exploration of all the reasons why it is the "best estimate" available. A litany of anti-gun advocates and researchers are quoted as essentially saying, "We don't have anything else, so this is good enough." For Qui, this somehow equates to bolstering the bogus 40 percent claim's veracity and Qui rates the claim "half true."

Remarkably, this is in direct contradiction to a "fact check" done by *Politifact* earlier in 2015. *Politifact's* Sean Gorman rated the 40 percent claim as "mostly false" when Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine used the statistic during a political speech in April. It appears that neutral "fact checking" has followed "objective" reporting as a thing of the past.

FBI: Crime Decreased in 2014

In October, the FBI reported that the nation's total violent crime rate decreased 0.9 percent from 2013 to 2014. The trend included decreases of 1 percent in murder and 6 percent in robbery, and increases of 2 percent in rape and 1 percent in aggravated assault. The percentage of murders committed with firearms decreased 1.6 percent.

Violent crime peaked in 1991. Through 2014, violent crime fell to a 44-year low, murder fell to likely an all-time low and robbery dropped to a 48-year low. Currently, Americans have acquired nearly half of the roughly 350 million privately owned firearms in the United States.

Comparable to previous years, less than 6 percent of murders involved rifles and shotguns of *all* types, while knives and other edged weapons were used in 13 percent of murders, hands and feet

in 6 percent, bludgeons in 4 percent and various other non-firearm weapons were used in smaller percentages. Nevertheless, gun control supporters persist in demanding a ban on semi-automatic shotguns and detachable-magazine semi-automatic rifles, particularly America's most popular rifle, the AR-15.

As in previous years, there was no correlation between states' crime rates and trends, and their gun control laws. Some states that have the most restrictive gun control laws had high rates of violent crime, some had low rates; some had worse crime trends, some had better trends; and the same was true for states that have less-restrictive gun laws. Also, as in previous years, the FBI reported that various factors, not including gun ownership rates or gun control laws, determine the type and volume of crime in each state.

Cities accounted for a disproportionate share of violent crime. For example, the murder rate for metropolitan areas was 4.7 per 100,000 residents, as compared to 3.9 for cities outside metropolitan areas, and 3.0 for non-metropolitan counties.

The murder rate in Detroit, which is subject to Michigan's handgun registration law, was nearly 10 times the rate for metropolitan areas generally, at 43.5 per 100,000 residents. The rate in Baltimore, subject to Maryland's handgun registration and waiting period law, and its "assault weapon" and "large" magazine bans, was not far behind, at 33.8. By comparison, the murder rate in Jacksonville, the largest city in Florida, where the Right-to-Carry movement began in 1987, was far behind, at 11.2. Chicago accounted for the most murders of any city, followed by New York City, Detroit, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. **ah**

LOCASH is



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September 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015
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According to many music insiders, 2015 is shaping up to be the year for LOCASH. Their upbeat, contagious single "I Love This Life" marks their highest-charting single to date. LOCASH continues to build their brand through live performances, with more than 150 this year—including appearances on some of the most prestigious stages in the world with acts ranging from Tim McGraw to Hank Williams Jr., Florida Georgia Line, Miranda Lambert and Kiss. The duo's highly anticipated album, "I Love This Life," is available now.

NRA Country's Vanessa Shahidi recently caught up with Chris Lucas and Preston Brust to talk about all things outdoors.

VS: How would you spend a week off in Mother Nature?

PB: "In the mountains with my wife."

VS: Do you have a favorite personal firearm?

CL: "All of my guns are my favorites, but I love my H&K 9 mm the most."

VS: Please share your favorite outdoor memory.

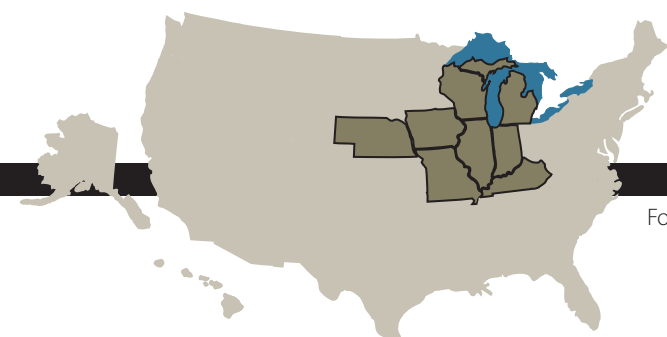
CL: "The Great Turkey Attack of 2009. I had never shot an animal. It was one of my first real hunts, and out of nowhere this turkey came out of the woods after me. He clearly didn't like me very much. I realized he was going to attack me, so I shot it—and that, folks, was my first turkey kill."

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Photo by Jake Harsh



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The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women

This Stars and Stripes Guitar autographed by Ted Nugent is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at nraistructors.org, by email at refuse@nrahq.org or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

DEC. 8—LAFAYETTE, IN
(Seminar)
Arthur Burk (765) 838-0700

DEC. 12—LAKE VILLA, IL
(Seminar)
Michel Rioux (847) 603-1966

DEC. 16—ANN ARBOR, MI
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Steven Reed (734) 761-5860

DECEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlinetraining.org for more information.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

NRA-affiliated state associations promote and support the purposes, objectives, policies and programs of the NRA. For more information, contact your state association listed here, or log on to clubs.nra.org.

Illinois State Rifle Ass'n Inc.
Richard Pearson, Executive Director
(815) 635-3198
executive@isra.org

Indiana State Rifle and Pistol Ass'n Inc.
Jerry Wehner, Executive Vice President
(812) 534-3258
vp@isrpa.org

Member information & benefits

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000

NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000
INTERNET ADDRESS: nra.org

MEMBER SERVICE (800) 672-3888
NRAstore.com (888) 607-6007

MEMBER PROGRAMS

Hertz Car Rental CDP# 166609 (800) 654-2200
AVIS Car Rental AWD# A832100 (800) 225-7094
NRA Endorsed Insurance Programs (877) 672-3006
NRA Endorsed Prescription Plan (888) 436-3700
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NRA Real Estate/Relocation Services (800) 593-2526
NRA Endorsed Moving Program
North American Van Lines (800) 524-5533
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THE NRA FOUNDATION 800-423-6894
NRA INSTRUCTOR/ COACH FIREARM TRAINING 703-267-1500
EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM 800-231-0752
REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM 800-861-1166
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS 703-267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS 800-NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES 877-672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING 877-672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT 703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA 703-267-1342
NRA MUSEUMS/ GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS 703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

areashoots

PISTOL
HIGHLAND, IL DEC. 13

HIGH POWER RIFLE
FREEDOM, IN DEC. 6

SILHOUETTE
EFFINGHAM, IL DEC. 19-20

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

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Iowa State Rifle and Pistol Ass'n

Bill Besgrove, Secretary
(319) 626-2710
billb@iasrpa.org

League of Kentucky Sportsmen, Inc.

Tom Mansfield, NRA Liaison
(859) 858-0135
thomasjmansfield@gmail.com

Michigan Rifle and Pistol Ass'n

Leo Cebula, President
(269) 781-1223
lcebula@hotmail.com

Missouri Sport Shooting Ass'n

Kevin Jamison, President
(314) 440-4811
kljamisonlaw@earthlink.net

Nebraska Marksmanship Ass'n

Bill Keil, President
(402) 933-4881
hpinne@cox.net

Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges,

Clubs and Educators
Jeff Nass, Executive Director
(920) 687-0505
jeff@wisconsinforce.org

gunshows

DEC. 1 BEAVER DAM, WI
Bayside Supper Club, Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce (920) 887-8879

DEC. 4-6 ROCK ISLAND, IL
Rock Island Auction Company, Rock Island Auction Co. (800) 238-8022

DEC. 4-6 COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA
Mall of the Bluffs, Pioneer Shows (712) 388-8520

DEC. 4-6 JEFFERSON, WI
Jefferson County Fair Park, Marv Kraus Promotions (563) 608-4401

DEC. 4-6 OSHKOSH, WI
Sunnyview Exposition Center, Bob & Rocco's Gun Shows (608) 752-6677

DEC. 4-6 AUBURN, IN
National Military History Center, Gun Slinger Promotions USA (260) 624-5996

DEC. 4-6 MOUNT CLEMENS, MI
Gibraltar Trade Center, Angela Niegard-Gibraltar Trade Center (586) 465-6400

DEC. 5-6 TIPTON, IN
Tipton County Fairgrounds, Tipton Gun Shows LLC (765) 675-6886

DEC. 5-6 EVANSVILLE, IN
Vanderburgh County 4-H Center, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836

DEC. 5-6 SEYMOUR, IN
National Guard Armory, Tri-State Gun & Knife Collectors LLC (812) 521-9367

DEC. 5-6 ASHLAND, KY
El Hasa Shrine Temple, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 5-6 SPRINGFIELD, MO
Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 11-13 WAVERLY, IA
The Centre Hall, Marv Kraus Promotions (563) 608-4401

DEC. 11-13 CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO
Cape Girardeau Arena Park, SEMO Gun Shows (573) 649-2848

DEC. 11-13 WAUKESHA, WI
Waukesha County Expo Center, Bob & Rocco's Gun Shows (608) 752-6677

DEC. 11-13 SHIPSHEWANA, IN
Trading Place Auction Building, Gun Slinger Promotions USA (260) 624-5996

DEC. 12-13 COLLINSVILLE, IL
Gateway Center, ECA Hunting & Trade Shows (618) 495-2572

DEC. 12-13 COLUMBIA, MO
Elks Lodge, Pro-mo-tions (573) 338-1524

DEC. 12-13 CROWN POINT, IN
Lake County Fairgrounds, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836

DEC. 12-13 LOUISVILLE, KY
Kentucky Exposition Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176 *

DEC. 13 WEST BRANCH, MI
Quality Inn Forwards Conference Center, PJS Promotions LLC (989) 798-8709

DEC. 13 FORT WAYNE, IN
Allen Indiana County Fairgrounds, Midwest Gun Traders Inc. (260) 749-6509

DEC. 13 ST. CHARLES, IL
Kane County Fairgrounds, Kane County Sportsman's Show (815) 758-2773

DEC. 18-20 ALTOONA, IA
Adventureland Park, Midwest Arms Collectors LLC (660) 341-7908

DEC. 18-20 FRANKLIN, WI
Milwaukee County Sports Complex, Bob & Rocco's Gun Shows (608) 752-6677

DEC. 18-20 EVANSVILLE, IN
Evansville National Guard Armory, Tri-State Gun & Knife Collectors, LLC (812) 521-9367

DEC. 19-20 LAFAYETTE, IN
Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836

DEC. 19-20 SOMERSET, KY
The Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 19-20 KANKAKEE, IL
Kankakee County Fairgrounds, The Cloe Group LLC (815) 263-2810

DEC. 19-20 KANSAS CITY, MO
KCI-Expo Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 20 CRYSTAL LAKE, IL
Holiday Inn Convention Center, DJ Guns (815) 385-1982

DEC. 26 DAVIDSON, MI
Knights of Columbus Hall, PJS Promotions LLC (989) 798-8709

DEC. 27 ANTIOCH, IL
Antioch VFW Hall, Lake County Gun Shows (847) 548-0433



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regional report • east

2016 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 20-22 • LOUISVILLE, KY

For hotel accommodations at the NRA Annual Meetings, visit nraam.org

FRIENDS OF NRA

Whether you're a hunter, competitive shooter or just a proud gun owner, Friends of NRA has something for everyone. The format is simple—food, fun, family and fundraising! At every Friends of NRA banquet you'll have the opportunity to participate in games, raffles, live and silent auctions, and more. You'll also find many unique items, including limited-edition firearms, wildlife art, jewelry and outdoor gear. These items are only available at Friends of NRA events. To learn more about events in your area, visit friendsofnra.org, contact your local field representative or call (800) 672-3888, ext. 1351.

Eastern Region Director—Bryan Hoover
bhoover@nrahq.org

Northern OH—Marc Peugeot
mpeugeot@nrahq.org

Southern OH—Andrew Root
aroot@nrahq.org

ME, VT, NH—Brian Smith
bsmith@nrahq.org

NJ, MA, RI, CT, Southern NY—Jim Reardon
jreardon@nrahq.org

NY—Jay Rusnock
jrusnock@nrahq.org

Eastern PA, DE—Kory Enck
kenck@nrahq.org

Western PA—Tom Baldrige
tbaldrige@nrahq.org

Eastern VA, Eastern MD, Washington, DC—David Wells
dwells@nrahq.org

Western VA, Western MD, WV—Jim Kilgore
jkilgore@nrahq.org

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at nraistructors.org, by email at refuse@nrahq.org or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

DEC. 1—DUBLIN, OH
(Seminar)
Maria Clemens (614) 397-3958

DEC. 4—MANCHESTER, VT
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Brian Kukon (802) 293-5986

DEC. 6—ALEXANDRIA, VA
(Seminar)
Howard Hall (949) 212-2291

DEC. 6—RANSON, WV
(Seminar)
Dennis Stoika (732) 620-2311

DEC. 11—PEEKSKILL, NY
(Seminar)
Steven Donahoo (914) 471-5632

DEC. 12—PEEKSKILL, NY
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Steven Donahoo (914) 471-5632

DEC. 12—ALEXANDRIA, VA
(Seminar)
Howard Hall (949) 212-8561

DEC. 13—ASHAWAY, RI
(Seminar)
Lyd Neugent (401) 377-8184

DEC. 18—HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY
(Seminar)
Mark Bendel (845) 418-3671

DEC. 19—QUAKERTOWN, PA
(Seminar)
Wayne Downs (610) 754-1185

DEC. 19—PEEKSKILL, NY
(Seminar)
Steven Donahoo (914) 471-5632

DEC. 27—MANCHESTER, VT
(Seminar)
Brian Kukon (802) 293-5986

DECEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlinetraining.org for more information.

Member information & benefits

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NRAstore.com (888) 607-6007

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AVIS Car Rental AWD# A832100 (800) 225-7094
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NRA Endorsed Prescription Plan (888) 436-3700
NRA Endorsed Check Program (888) 331-6767
NRA VISA Card (866) NRA-VISA
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THE NRA FOUNDATION 800-423-6894
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EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM 800-231-0752
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RANGE SERVICES 877-672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING 877-672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT 703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA 703-267-1342
**NRA MUSEUMS/
GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS** 703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

areashoots

PISTOL
NEW CASTLE, DE DEC. 5-6
NEW YORK, NY DEC. 13

HIGH POWER RIFLE
NEW TRIPOLE, PA DEC. 6

SILHOUETTE
STATEN ISLAND, NY DEC. 1
SUFFOLK, VA DEC. 6
MONTPELIER, VA DEC. 12
SUDDLERSVILLE, MD DEC. 19

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public and private officers interested in becoming firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools, designed to enhance the instructors' firearm knowledge and handling skills, as well as prepare them to develop effective training programs, instruct in a professional manner, and conduct

practical training exercises. Restricted to law enforcement officers only.

TUITION-FREE ARMORER CLASSES**

(Register at: <http://le.nra.org/training/tuition-free-schools.aspx>)

DEC. 14—FAIRFAX, VA

(SIG P Series Pistol)

DEC. 15—FAIRFAX, VA

(Active Threat Mitigation)

Contact Erica Buchanan at ebuchanan@nrahq.org or (703) 267-1638

gunshows

DEC. 4-6 ALLENTOWN, PA
Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-Plex, Forks Of the Delaware Historical Arms Society Inc. (610) 438-9006

DEC. 5-6 LIMA, OH
Allen County Fairgrounds, Tri-State Gun Collectors (419) 647-0067

DEC. 5-6 TALLMADGE, OH
Summit County Fairgrounds, Ohio Gun Shows (330) 539-4247

DEC. 5-6 ZANESVILLE, OH
Muskingum County Fairgrounds, Front Sight Promotions LLC (740) 667-0412

DEC. 5-6 CLARENCE, NY
Clarence Event Building, Niagara Frontier Gun Shows (716) 542-9929

DEC. 5-6 GETTYSBURG, PA
All Star Events Complex, Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

DEC. 5-6 NASHUA, NH
Holiday Inn, Northeast Expositions (603) 621-0700

DEC. 5-6 MANASSAS, VA
Prince William County Fairgrounds, SGK Gun Shows (757) 483-5385

DEC. 5-6 FAIRMONT, WV
Marion County National Guard Armory, C&E Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016

DEC. 12-13 DAYTON, OH
Dayton Hara Arena, Bill Goodman's Gun & Knife Shows (502) 538-3900

DEC. 12-13 LAKE HARMONY, PA
Split Rock Resort, Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

DEC. 12-13 HARRISBURG, PA
PA Farm Show Complex- Expo Hall, Showmasters and C&E Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016 *

DEC. 12-13 WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA
Eastern State Exposition, Mid-Hudson Promotions Inc. (914) 248-1000

DEC. 12-13 MARIETTA, OH
Washington County Fairgrounds, Front Sight Promotions LLC (740) 667-0412

DEC. 12-13 CHEEKTOWAGA, NY
The Knights Columbus Hall, Niagara Frontier Gun Shows (716) 524-9929

DEC. 12-13 JEFFERSON, OH
Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, LG Firearms Productions (216) 338-1271

DEC. 12-13 LANCASTER, OH
Fairfield County Fairgrounds, 1100 Events LLC opssshows@yahoo.com

DEC. 12-13 MEDINA, OH
Medina County Fairgrounds, Conrad & Dowdell Productions (330) 948-4400

DEC. 12-13 FISHERSVILLE, VA
Augusta Expo Center, Showmasters and C&E Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016

DEC. 18-20 OAKS, PA
Greater Philadelphia Oaks Expo Center, Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

DEC. 19-20 SHARONVILLE, OH
Sharonville Convention Center, Bill Goodman's Gun & Knife Shows (502) 538-3900

DEC. 19-20 MONTPELIER, OH
Williams County Fairgrounds, D&K Enterprises (419) 737-2801

DEC. 19-20 COLUMBUS, OH
Westland Mall, Showmasters and C&E Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016

DEC. 19-20 WELLINGTON, OH
Lorain County Fairgrounds, Bill-Mar Promotions (440) 986-5004

DEC. 19-20 NILES, OH
Eastwood Expo Center, Ohio Gun Shows (330) 539-4247

DEC. 19-20 YORK, PA
York Fairgrounds, Appalachian Promotions (717) 697-3088

DEC. 19-20 CHILICOTHE, OH
Ross County Fairgrounds, Front Sight Promotions LLC (740) 667-0412

DEC. 19-20 SALEM, VA
The Salem Civic Center, C&G Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016 *

DEC. 26-27 MONROE, OH
Aisles Flea Market, Patriot Gun & Knife Show (513) 638-8688

Dates and locations subject to change—contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership sold through NRA recruiters. *Some shows may offer free admission for new membership and renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (703) 267-3714.



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regional report • midwest

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Midwest Region Director—Tom Ulik
tulik@nrahq.org

AR—Erica Willard
ewillard@nrahq.org

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bdreier@nrahq.org

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kpost@nrahq.org

OK—Darren DeLong
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Northern TX—Terry Free
tfree@nrahq.org

Southern TX—Liz Foley
efoley@nrahq.org

Western TX—Jack Cannon
jcannon@nrahq.org



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DEC. 5—COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
(Seminar)
Paul Pucci (719) 332-1949

DEC. 6—COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Paul Pucci (719) 332-1949

DECEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlinetraining.org for more information.

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PISTOL	
DENVER, CO	DEC. 19
MANOR, TX	DEC. 20
SMALLBORE RIFLE	
PINE BLUFF, AR	DEC. 5
HOUSTON, TX	DEC. 5
HIGH POWER RIFLE	
WICHITA FALLS, TX	DEC. 5
N. LITTLE ROCK, AR	DEC. 5-6
ARCADIA, OK	DEC. 13
HOUSTON, TX	DEC. 13
DONNA, TX	DEC. 13
BRAZORIA, TX	DEC. 19
SILHOUETTE	
MANSFIELD, TX	DEC. 5
BYERS, CO	DEC. 6
EL PASO, TX	DEC. 6
HALTOM CITY, TX	DEC. 12
FRIENDWOOD, TX	DEC. 19

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gunshows

DEC. 5-6 Kay Rogers Park Expo, Ft. Smith Gun Show (479) 522-0169	FORT SMITH, AR	DEC. 12-13 Jourdanton American Legion, Eagle Outfitters (210) 371-3001	JOURDANTON, TX
DEC. 5-6 Tulsa Fairgrounds, Grand American Arms Shows (405) 612-0223	TULSA, OK	DEC. 12-13 Lakeland Plaza, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194	LEWISVILLE, TX
DEC. 5-6 Taylor County Expo, Silver Spur Trade Shows (806) 253-1322	ABILENE, TX	DEC. 12-13 Orange County Expo Center, Real Texas Gun Shows (713) 724-8881	ORANGE, TX
DEC. 5-6 Denver Merchandise Mart, Tanner Gun Shows (303) 756-3467	DENVER, CO	DEC. 12-13 Harvey Hall Convention Center, Lone Star Gun Shows (214) 635-2009	TYLER, TX
DEC. 5-6 Tays Event Center, Western Frontier Gun Shows (575) 430-8681	ALAMOGORDO, NM	DEC. 19-20 Convention Center Northwest Arkansas, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176	SPRINGDALE, AR
DEC. 5-6 Aransas Pass Civic Center, Gulf Coast Gun Shows (254) 485-2770	ARANSAS PASS, TX	DEC. 19-20 Denver Merchandise Mart, Tanner Gun Shows (303) 756-3467	DENVER, CO
DEC. 5-6 Texas Motor Speedway, Dan's Five Star Gun Shows (214) 862-3905	FORT WORTH, TX	DEC. 19-20 Oklahoma State Fair Park, OKC Gun Show Inc. (405) 842-3277	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
DEC. 5-6 Somervell County Expo, Whipp Farm Productions (817) 929-1816	GLEN ROSE, TX	DEC. 19-20 Bell County Expo Center, Real Texas Gun Shows (713) 724-8881	BELTON, TX
DEC. 5-6 NRG Center, High Caliber Gun & Knife Show (281) 489-1741	HOUSTON, TX	DEC. 19-20 SPJST Lodge #180, Whipp Farm Productions (817) 929-1816	BURLESON, TX
DEC. 5-6 Legacy Event Center, GGA Productions (817) 659-9249	HUGHES SPRINGS, TX	DEC. 19-20 Burnet Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, Wild Weasel Productions (210) 827-6302	BURNET, TX
DEC. 5-6 Big Town Exhibition Hall, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194	MESQUITE, TX	DEC. 19-20 Gillespie County Fairgrounds, Silver Spur Trade Shows (806) 253-1322	FREDERICKSBURG, TX
DEC. 5-6 Pasadena Convention Center, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194	PASADENA, TX	DEC. 19-20 Will Rogers Center, Lone Star Gun Shows (214) 635-2009	FT. WORTH, TX
DEC. 5-6 San Antonio Events Center, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	SAN ANTONIO, TX	DEC. 19-20 Grapevine Convention Center, Dan's Five Star Gun Shows (214) 862-3905	GRAPEVINE, TX
DEC. 5-6 Wichita Falls Multi-Purpose Event Center, Texas Collectors Gun Show (940) 692-3766	WICHITA FALLS, TX	DEC. 19-20 McAllen Convention Center, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	MCALLEN, TX
DEC. 12-13 Freedom Financial Services Expo Center, Gun Shows of the Rockies (563) 927-8176	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO	DEC. 19-20 New Braunfels Civic Center, Liberty Gun Shows (512) 774-0486	NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
DEC. 12-13 Expo New Mexico, Silver Spur Trade Shows (806) 253-1322	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	DEC. 19-20 Pasadena Convention Center, High Caliber Gun & Knife Show (281) 489-1741	PASADENA, TX
DEC. 12-13 Washington County Fairgrounds, Badshot Gun Show LLC (405) 503-3665	DEWEY, OK	DEC. 19-20 Freeman Coliseum, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194	SAN ANTONIO, TX
DEC. 12-13 Oklahoma State Fair Park, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	DEC. 19-20 Schertz Civic Center, Texas Gun Shows (210) 872-7469	SCHERTZ, TX
DEC. 12-13 Richard M. Bouchard Regional Fairgrounds, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	DEC. 26-27 Oklahoma State Fair Park, Metcalf Gun Shows (918) 272-1119	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

Dates and locations subject to change—contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership sold through NRA recruiters. *Some shows may offer free admission for new membership and renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (703) 267-3776.



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2016 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 20-22 • LOUISVILLE, KY

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FRIENDS OF NRA

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Southern Region Director—Al Hammond
ahammond@nrahq.org

LA—Chad Bowen
cbowen@nrahq.org

AL, MS—Gene Newman
gnewman@nrahq.org

Northern FL—Bret Eldridge
peldridge@nrahq.org

Southern FL—Tom Knight
tknight@nrahq.org

GA—Neely Raper
nraper@nrahq.org

Eastern NC—Lloyd Edwards
ledwards@nrahq.org

Western NC—Doug Merrill
rmerrill@nrahq.org

TN—Mike Webb
mwebb@nrahq.org

SC—Freeman Coleman
fcoleman@nrahq.org



This Stars and Stripes Guitar autographed by Ted Nugent is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

Member information & benefits

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000

NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000
INTERNET ADDRESS: nra.org

MEMBER SERVICE (800) 672-3888
NRAstore.com (888) 607-6007

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AVIS Car Rental AWD# A832100 (800) 225-7094
NRA Endorsed Insurance Programs (877) 672-3006
NRA Endorsed Prescription Plan (888) 436-3700
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THE NRA FOUNDATION 800-423-6894
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COACH FIREARM TRAINING** 703-267-1500
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REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM 800-861-1166
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS 703-267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS 800-NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES 877-672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING 877-672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT 703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA 703-267-1342
**NRA MUSEUMS/
GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS** 703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

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DEC. 7-11—FLORENCE, AL

(Select-Fire)

Contact Rudis Amaya at ramaya@nrahq.org or (703) 267-1636.

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women

areashoots

PISTOL

BLOUNTSTOWN, FL DEC. 12
JACKSONVILLE, FL DEC. 20
BROOKSVILLE, FL DEC. 27

SMALLBORE RIFLE

ORLANDO, FL DEC. 5
RIDGEVILLE, SC DEC. 19

HIGH POWER RIFLE

COVINGTON, GA DEC. 5
DONALDSONVILLE, LA DEC. 5
SUNRISE, FL DEC. 5
BELTON, SC DEC. 6
CHARLOTTE, NC DEC. 12
LAKE LAND, TN DEC. 12
HOOVER, AL DEC. 27

SILHOUETTE

HOOVER, AL DEC. 5
DAWSONVILLE, GA DEC. 6
NEW HOLLAND, SC DEC. 12
CHULUOTA, FL DEC. 13
ROXBORO, NC DEC. 19
PEARLINGTON, MS DEC. 19
BRUNSWICK, GA DEC. 19

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

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with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at nrainstructors.org, by email at refuse@nrahq.org or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

DEC. 5—LAKE PARK, FL
(Seminar)
David D'Eugenio (561) 844-1381

DEC. 19—STONE MOUNTAIN, GA
(Seminar)
Matthew Schwab (678) 260-8318

DEC. 19—STONE MOUNTAIN, GA
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Matthew Schwab
(678) 260-8318

DEC. 21—FORT MYERS, FL
(Instructor Development Workshop)
W Dean
(239) 357-3437

DECEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlinetraining.org for more information.

gunshows

DEC. 5-6 NASHVILLE, TN
Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Bill Goodman's Gun & Knife Shows (502) 538-3900

DEC. 5-6 DOTHAN, AL
National Peanut Festival Facility, Collectors & Shooters Club (334) 322-8818

DEC. 5-6 FAYETTEVILLE, NC
Crown Center, C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016

DEC. 5-6 DELAND, FL
Volusia County Fairgrounds, Sport Show Specialists (321) 777-7455

DEC. 5-6 BROOKSVILLE, FL
Hernando County Fairgrounds, Hernando Club (352) 799-3605

DEC. 5-6 MINNEOLA, FL
Minneola City Hall, New Florida Gun Shows (407) 568-3365

DEC. 5-6 TAMPA, FL
Florida State Fairgrounds, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870

DEC. 5-6 GRAY, TN
Appalachian Fairgrounds, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 5-6 BOSSIER CITY, LA
Bossier Civic Center, Classic Arms Productions (985) 624-8577

DEC. 5-6 ATLANTA, GA
Atlanta Expo Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 5-6 MOUNTAIN CITY, GA
Golden Memories Auction House, North Georgia Gun Shows (828) 557-1543

DEC. 5-6 CAPE CORAL, FL
German American Social Club, FBL Venues (239) 223-3370

DEC. 5-6 GREENVILLE, NC
Greenville Convention Center, S&D Show Promotions (252) 745-5647

DEC. 11-13 TUPELO, MS
Tupelo Furniture Market, Tupelo Gun Show (662) 871-3619

DEC. 12-13 EUSTIS, FL
Lake County Fairgrounds, Sport Show Specialists (321) 777-7455

DEC. 12-13 GERMANTOWN, TN
Argicenter International, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 12-13 FT. MYERS, FL
Lee Civic Center, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870

DEC. 12-13 CHARLOTTE, NC
Metrolina Expo Center, Dixie Gun & Knife Show (919) 781-1287

DEC. 12-13 KNOXVILLE, TN
Chilhowee Park & Expo Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176 *

DEC. 12-13 LAFAYETTE, LA
Lafayette Event Center, Classic Arms Productions (985) 624-8577

DEC. 12-13 NORCROSS, GA
North Atlanta Trade Center, Eastman Gun Shows (229) 423-4867

DEC. 19-20 VALDOSTA, GA
Rainwater Conference Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

DEC. 19-20 HUNTSVILLE, AL
Cahaba Shrine Center, VPI Gun Shows (256) 381-0506 *

DEC. 19-20 BILOXI, MS
Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center, Classic Arms Productions (985) 624-8577

DEC. 19-20 MARIETTA, GA
Jim Miller Park, Eastman Gun Shows (229) 423-4867 *

DEC. 19-20 WEST PALM BEACH, FL
South Florida Fairgrounds, Sport Show Specialists (321) 777-7455

DEC. 19-20 RALEIGH, NC
North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Showmasters and C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016

DEC. 19-20 SARASOTA, FL
Roberts Sports Arena, 2 Guys Shows (727) 776-3442

DEC. 19-20 KENNER, LA
Pontchartrain Center, Great Southern Gun & Knife Shows (865) 671-4757



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FRIENDS OF NRA

Whether you're a hunter, competitive shooter or just a proud gun owner, Friends of NRA has something for everyone. The format is simple—food, fun, family and fundraising! At every Friends of NRA banquet you'll have the opportunity to participate in games, raffles, live and silent auctions, and more. You'll also find many unique items, including limited-edition firearms, wildlife art, jewelry and outdoor gear. These items are only available at Friends of NRA events. To learn more about events in your area, visit friendsofnra.org, contact your local field representative or call (800) 672-3888, ext. 1351.

Southwest Region Director—Jason Quick
jquick@nrahq.org

AZ—Winston Pendleton
wpendleton@nrahq.org

Mid CA—Bob Anderson
randerson@nrahq.org

Central CA—Paul Rodarmel
prodarmel@nrahq.org

Northern CA—Dan Wilhelm
dwilhelm@nrahq.org

Southern CA—Mike Davis
mdavis@nrahq.org

Eastern CA—Cole Beverly
cbeverly@nrahq.org

NV—Steve Wilson
swilson@nrahq.org

UT—John Kendall
jkendall@nrahq.org

This Stars and Stripes Guitar autographed by Ted Nugent is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at nrainstructors.org, by email at refuse@nrahq.org or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

DEC. 5—TEMECULA, CA
(Seminar)
Luis Lopez (888) 892-1767

DEC. 13—SACRAMENTO, CA
(Seminar)
Donnette Larson (916) 844-2486

DECEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlinetraining.org for more information.

areashoots

PISTOL

SLOUGHHOUSE, CA	DEC. 6
OJAI, CA	DEC. 6
ESCONDIDO, CA	DEC. 13
PHOENIX, AZ	DEC. 20
DULZURA, CA	DEC. 26

HIGH POWER RIFLE

PHOENIX, AZ	DEC. 4-6
ESCONDIDO, CA	DEC. 6
YUMA, AZ	DEC. 13
BOULDER CITY, NV	DEC. 13
LINCOLN, CA	DEC. 19
MARICOPA, CA	DEC. 20

SILHOUETTE

CUPERTINO, CA	DEC. 9
SYLMAR, CA	DEC. 12-13
MESA, AZ	DEC. 19
CONCORD, CA	DEC. 20
PHOENIX, AZ	DEC. 20
YUMA, AZ	DEC. 26

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

Member information & benefits

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000

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INTERNET ADDRESS: nra.org

MEMBER SERVICE (800) 672-3888
NRAstore.com (888) 607-6007

MEMBER PROGRAMS

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AVIS Car Rental AWD# A832100 (800) 225-7094
NRA Endorsed Insurance Programs (877) 672-3006
NRA Endorsed Prescription Plan (888) 436-3700
NRA Endorsed Check Program (888) 331-6767
NRA VISA Card (866) NRA-VISA
NRA Real Estate/Relocation Services (800) 593-2526
NRA Endorsed Moving Program
North American Van Lines (800) 524-5533
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THE NRA FOUNDATION 800-423-6894
**NRA INSTRUCTOR/
COACH FIREARM TRAINING** 703-267-1500
EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM 800-231-0752
REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM 800-861-1166
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS 703-267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS 800-NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES 877-672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING 877-672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT 703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA 703-267-1342
**NRA MUSEUMS/
GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS** 703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

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DEC. 7-11—LAS VEGAS, NV
(Precision Rifle)

DEC. 7-11—RICHMOND, CA
(Tactical Shotgun)

Mary Shine at mshine@nrahq.org, or (703) 267-1628.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

NRA-affiliated state associations promote and support the purposes, objectives, policies and programs of the NRA. For more information, contact your state association listed here, or log on to clubs.nra.org.

Arizona State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n
Noble Hathaway, President
(623) 687-4251
president@asrpa.com

California Rifle & Pistol Ass'n
(714) 992-2772
contact@crpa.org

Nevada Firearms Coalition
Don Turner, President
(702) 373-5935
don@nvfac.org

Utah State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n
Elwood Powell, President
(801) 499-9763
1dpowell@sisna.com

gunshows

DEC. 4-6 PHOENIX, AZ
Arizona State Fairgrounds, Crossroads of the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125

DEC. 5-6 BAKERSFIELD, CA
Kern County Fairgrounds, Central Coast Gun Shows (805) 481-6726

DEC. 5-6 RED BLUFF, CA
Tehama County Fairgrounds, Phoenix Productions (530) 360-6896

DEC. 5-6 VALLEJO, CA
Solano County Fairgrounds, Code of the West Productions (530) 676-8762

DEC. 12-13 KINGMAN, AZ
Mohave County Fairgrounds, High Desert Events (928) 279-5406

DEC. 12-13 TUCSON, AZ
Tucson Expo, Arizona Gun Radio (650) 520-6002

DEC. 12-13 DEL MAR, CA
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Crossroads of the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125

DEC. 12-13 PASO ROBLES, CA
Paso Robles Event Center, Central Coast Gun Shows (805) 481-6726

DEC. 12-13 LAS VEGAS, NV
The Sport Center, OKC Gun Show Inc. (405) 842-3277

DEC. 12-13 RENO, NV
Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Crossroads of the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125

DEC. 18-19 LAS VEGAS, NV
South Point Casino, Rocky Mountain Gun Shows (801) 589-0975

DEC. 19-20 PHOENIX, AZ
Ben Avery Shooting Facility, Arizona Gun Radio (650) 520-6002

DEC. 19-20 PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ
Tim's Toyota Center, Arizona Peacemakers (520) 747-5709

DEC. 19-20 YUMA, AZ
Yuma Civic Center, Yuma Territorial Gun Shows (928) 920-0837

DEC. 19-20 ROSEVILLE, CA
Placer County Fairgrounds, Code of the West Productions (530) 676-8762

DEC. 19-20 VENTURA, CA
Ventura County Fairgrounds, Crossroads of the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125

DEC. 19-20 LAS VEGAS, NV
Cashman Field Center, Crossroads of the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125

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Western Region Director—Brad Kruger
bkruger@nrahq.org

MN—Eric Linder
elinder@nrahq.org

ND, SD—Clay Pederson
cpederson@nrahq.org

Northern AK—Josh Toennessen
jtoennessen@nrahq.org

Southern AK—Greg Stephens
gstephens@nrahq.org

ID—Steve Vreeland
svreeland@nrahq.org

MT—Joe Crismore
jcrismore@nrahq.org

OR, HI—Mike Carey
mcarey@nrahq.org

WA—Michael Herrera
mherrera@nrahq.org

WY—Dave Manzer
dmanzer@nrahq.org

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police Competition

NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training. See PPC Rulebook (Rule 2.4) for eligibility requirements.

DEC. 19—ARLINGTON, WA
(Approved)

Contact Tiffany King at tking@nrahq.org, or (703) 267-1621.

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

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with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at nrainstructors.org, by email at refuse@nrahq.org or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

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Alaska Outdoor Council Inc.

Rod Arno, Executive Director
(907) 264-6645
aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

Hawaii Rifle Ass'n

Harvey Gerwig, President
(808) 306-7194
hghawaii@gmail.com

Idaho State Rifle and Pistol Ass'n

Neill Goodfellow, President
(208) 452-0293
president@idahosrpa.org

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AVIS Car Rental AWD# A832100 (800) 225-7094
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NRA Endorsed Prescription Plan (888) 436-3700
NRA Endorsed Check Program (888) 331-6767
NRA VISA Card (866) NRA-VISA
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EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM 800-231-0752
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RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS 703-267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS 800-NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES 877-672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING 877-672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT 703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA 703-267-1342
**NRA MUSEUMS/
GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS** 703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

areashoots

PISTOL

BOISE, ID DEC. 19-20

SILHOUETTE

BOISE, ID DEC. 5
SHERWOOD, OR DEC. 5
PUYALLUP WA DEC. 13
SNOHOMISH, WA DEC. 19

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

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Minnesota Rifle and Revolver Ass'n Inc.

George Minerich, President
(320) 968-6898
mrrapresident@gmail.com

Montana Rifle and Pistol Ass'n

Jamey Williams, President
(406) 868-4181
jameydan@gmail.com

North Dakota Shooting Sports Ass'n

Eric Pueppke, Executive Officer
(701) 967-8450
Cpueppke@polarcomm.com

Oregon State Shooting Ass'n

Nelson Shew, President
(541) 409-3358
bnsheew@centurylink.net

Washington State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n Inc.

Duane Hatch, Vice President
(253) 853-7533
vicepresident@wsrpa.org

Wyoming State Shooting Ass'n Inc.

Mark Spungin, President
(307) 335-9323
mspungin@ymail.com

South Dakota Shooting Sports Ass'n

Tom Raines, President
(605) 428-5488
tom@sdsshootingsports.org

gunshows

DEC. 4-6 HAMILTON, MT

Ravalli County Fairgrounds, Sports Connection
(406) 633-9333

DEC. 4-6 KALISPELL, MT

Flathead County Fairgrounds, Up In Arms Gun Shows (208) 241-4005

DEC. 5-6 CANBY, OR

Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Collectors West
(800) 659-3440

DEC. 5-6 KLAMATH FALLS, OR

Klamath County Fairgrounds, Jefferson State Shooting Association (541) 880-3870

DEC. 5-6 MONROE, WA

Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Washington Arms Collectors (425) 255-8410

DEC. 5-6 SPOKANE, WA

Spokane County Fair & Expo, Lewis Clark Trader
(208) 746-5555

DEC. 11-13 BOZEMAN, MT

Gallatin County Fairgrounds, Weapons Collector Society of Montana (406) 580-5458

DEC. 12 VANCOUVER, WA

Clark County Square Dance Center, Arms Collectors of Southwest Washington (360) 263-7511

DEC. 12-13 COEUR D'ALENE, ID

Kootenai County Fairgrounds, Sports Connection
(406) 633-9333

DEC. 12-13 DICKINSON, ND

Astoria Hotel & Event Center, Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association (701) 361-9215

DEC. 12-13 GRANTS PASS, OR

Josephine County Fairgrounds, Collectors West
(800) 659-3440

DEC. 12-13 RICKREALL, OR

Rickreall Fairgrounds & Events Center, Polk County Fairgrounds & Events Center (503) 623-3048

DEC. 12-13 BURLINGTON, WA

American Legion Post #91, Falcon Gun Shows
(360) 202-7336

DEC. 12-13 CENTRALIA, WA

SouthWest Washington Fairgrounds, Wes Knodel Gun Shows (503) 363-9564

DEC. 12-13 PUYALLUP, WA

Western Washington Fairgrounds, Washington Arms Collectors (425) 255-8410

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(206) 753-7956

DEC. 12-13 ST. PAUL, MN

St. Paul River Centre, Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association (612) 721-8976

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Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center, Collectors West (800) 659-3440

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Central Wyoming Fairgrounds, Up In Arms Gun Shows (208) 241-4005

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Greyhound Park & Event Center, Lewis Clark Trader
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programs & services

“America’s Rifle” Exhibit Opens at National Firearms Museum

The National Firearms Museum proudly announces the opening of *America’s Rifle*, a new exhibit that examines the evolution and popularity of AR-pattern modern sporting rifles.

The exhibit follows the history of AR-pattern rifles from their development to their uses today in competition, hunting, recreational shooting and personal defense. Featuring more than a dozen rifles, *America’s Rifle* highlights influential predecessors like the M14, G3, FN-FAL and AK-47.

This educational exhibit illustrates the significant differences between the select-fire military-type rifles capable of full-automatic and the semi-automatic AR-pattern sporting rifles owned by millions of civilians.

“*America’s Rifle* explores the advancements in firearms technology that paved the way for this rifle to be so safe, reliable and adaptable to almost any situation,” said NRA Museums Director Jim Supica.

America’s Rifle will be on exhibit in the National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Va., until July 2016.

woman’s outlook

NRA Announces 2015 Women’s Awards Recipients

The National Rifle Association recently selected the recipients of its 2015 Women’s Awards, which recognize exceptional accomplishments in the preservation of the Second Amendment and the shooting sports through education, advocacy and volunteerism.

Carolyn Meadows of Marietta, Ga., received the 2015 Sybil Ludington Women’s Freedom Award. The award, first given in 1995 and named for a heroine of the American Revolution, recognizes women who have demonstrated an extraordinary dedication to preserving the Second Amendment on the national stage and advancing the goals of the

NRA through volunteerism and legislative activism.

Meadows, an active member of the NRA Board of Directors since 2003, is an experienced political leader whose effective lobbying of U.S. and Georgia legislators has been felt both locally and nationally. A passionate shooter and hunter, Meadows also volunteers her time to arrange gun safety courses, including the annual Jett Williams Law Enforcement Shootout and the Lockheed-Martin Gun Club.

The 2015 Marion P. Hammer Woman of Distinction Award, named after the first woman president of the NRA, went

to **Linda Gilbertson** of Concho, Ariz. Created in 2004, the award is presented to women who, like Hammer, exemplify activism and influence many in their fight to preserve Second Amendment freedoms.

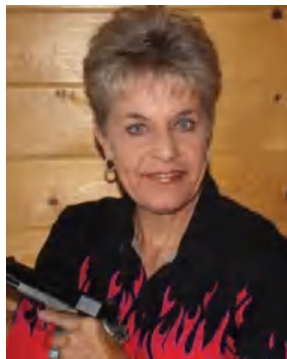
Gilbertson, a former Oregon state police officer and U.S. Treasury Department Special Agent, has volunteered countless hours as an NRA Certified Instructor to help women become comfortable and confident with firearms. Along with her husband, Gilbertson co-hosts “The Gun Locker,” a weekly radio show that explores firearm-related topics. She also has cofounded several gun clubs and worked as a pistol instructor at the NRA Women’s Wilderness Escape.

“Carolyn Meadows and Linda Gilbertson are two remarkable women who have helped so many people discover the fun of safe firearm ownership and usage,” said Executive Director of NRA General Operations Kyle Weaver. “We are so grateful for their contributions to the Second Amendment, and the lasting impact of their volunteerism will be felt for generations to come.” **ah**

To learn more about the Women’s Awards and other programs for women offered by the NRA, visit women.nra.org or call (800) 861-1166.



Photos courtesy of Linda Gilbertson



Linda Gilbertson, of Concho, Ariz., shown teaching some women about proper handling of a firearm, received the 2015 Marion P. Hammer Woman of Distinction Award. She and her husband also co-host “The Gun Locker,” a weekly radio show on firearm-related topics.

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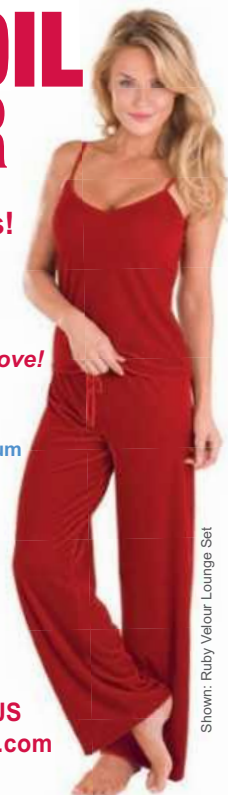
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coyote *continued from p. 66*

right at me with my night vision. A trio was sneaking through a pecan grove. I shot the first one at 65 yards, swung and dropped the second, and the third one ran right by me. I would have had that one, too, but it was headed into town and I didn't want to take a risky shot with all the city lights in the background. It was definitely one of my most exciting coyote hunts."

If you do embrace a Batman hunting style, both hunters suggest you contact landowners and share your plan. You don't want farmers calling authorities in the middle of the night when they hear shots on the back 40.

ALL-POINTS TIP

It's no secret that predators prowl at night. They feel confident moving about under the cover of darkness. Human activity plummets after dark. Plus, cooler nighttime temperatures, especially in the Southeast, offer pleasant relief for comfortable hunting. If your state allows night hunting, especially with night-vision aids, embrace the strategy.

First, scan your calling area nonstop. Sweep the night-vision aid or red light back and forth across the area where you expect predator action. With lights it's best to sweep with the edge or halo of the light, instead of using the harsher middle section of the beam.

Next, be sure of your target and your ability to judge game in the dim conditions. You may have to identify animals by body size, the size of their eyes and the manner in which they approach. Coyotes, foxes, bobcats and raccoons all have different body shapes along with varying gaits. It's common to have two or more species show up at your nighttime setup, so learn the traits of each predator in your area for proper identification.

Finally, once you locate a set of approaching eyes, keep them illuminated with the light's edge. When you are sure of the target, aim the main beam of light onto it as you prepare to press the trigger. Coyotes will likely be the most cautious so be prepared for a longer shot into the darkness.

It's in the Details

Coyote hunting anywhere is about details. When you combine dense, Eastern habitat and cautious attitudes you really

need to pay attention to the little things. Most predator hunters still adapt a scent philosophy of setting up downwind of where they expect predators to show themselves. Lannen follows that code in daylight, but flips the tables at night. His standard nighttime setup is to locate an open field bordered by timber. He positions himself with the timber behind him and with the wind at his back blowing toward the field.

Why? He knows predators will circle downwind to scent-check an area. If they circle and the wind is blowing his scent into the timber, he may never see an animal in the darkness. This is especially true in thick cover. But if the animal has to circle in an open field, he has higher odds of spotting and shooting it before it walks through his scent stream.

Ward also has a unique setup approach, and it involves farm equipment. As he scrutinizes a field location for a calling site he'll scan for machinery parked after a day of farm work.

"Predators have lots of interaction with farmers and tractors bumping around fields. And because of that they aren't hesitant about approaching a parked tractor," explains Ward. "I look for tractors sitting on a field edge or even peanut wagons. In the right downwind location, they give me an elevated place to set up and call from. I can call right from the tractor or put an electronic caller out a few yards to direct attention away from my perch."

ALL-POINTS TIP

Lannen's upwind calling position may go against everything you ever learned about predator hunting. But just as the technique works for him in the East, it holds merit for Western locations covered in brush as well as with crafty predators that tend to circle the call before showing themselves.

Scout for a location with a downwind corridor that will give you ample views to spot incoming predators. Access the stand with the knowledge you'll be alerting everything downwind, but with enough familiarity of the land to have blocks of cover upwind and parallel to your calling position where predators won't sense your presence. Place your electronic caller in the alley, and then gain elevation for a grand downwind view. Any predator that shows up will want to circle downwind. Your job is to bust it before it busts you. **ah**

The 10th Day Dall

By Ted Borowski Jr., Pensacola, Fla.

With my 50th birthday looming in November, I contacted outfitter Tom Shankster of Alaska Trophy Hunts and scheduled a 10-day Dall sheep hunt to begin on Aug. 10. It was to be my last attempt. I was 60 pounds lighter than I was on my earlier, failed attempt, and I was spending an hour each morning on the elliptical while watching sheep hunting videos. I noticed that shots in excess of 400 yards were common. I had never shot 400 yards. I purchased a Swarovski z5 scope with a ballistic turret, and I attended the NRA Outdoors Long Range Shooting School (Level I) at the Peacemaker National Training Center in West Virginia. Although I have been shooting a rifle for more than 30 years, I am amazed how much I learned, and I became quite comfortable with 500-yard shots. I highly recommend it.

After the first two days of following my guide, Spencer, up mountains, I questioned whether I was capable of surviving the hunt. We walked many miles over the 10 days in every direction, all of them up, and spent a couple of days weathered inside our tents. Virtually all of the sheep were on the ridges. The two largest rams I have ever seen eluded us on day eight, and on the way back to camp, I fell in a stream. Tanks to the rain, I remained wet for the next three days.

On the 10th day, we crossed the Jones River (which had been dry three days earlier and was now raging), and a short distance up a valley Spencer spotted seven rams bedded on the back side of a knoll. After two hours, they got up but fed without leaving the knoll. When they bedded back down out of sight, we moved about 300 yards up the mountain to a small rise. One older ram was lying so that we could see one horn, and Spencer could, through his spotting scope, tell that the ram was 9 years old by counting its growth rings. Thus, this was a legal ram regardless of the other horn length. We anticipated that when the ram got up, he would stand tall enough to provide a clear broadside shot. He didn't.

A couple hours later when the ram stood, due to the ridge between us only the top 5 inches of his back were visible. A



spine shot, I reasoned, would be either a good hit or a clean miss. I felt good about the shot and expected him to fall, but my first shot at 310 yards did not strike its intended target. I took the walk of shame to confirm that it was a clean miss. The hardest 10 days I have ever spent . . . and I missed.

Remarkably, when we crawled up to the crest, all seven rams were between 150 and 225 yards in front of us, grazing and milling about. Now, Spencer again had to confirm which of the three largest rams was legal before another shot could be attempted. Spencer started with the one farthest away. Seconds seemed like minutes. It wasn't him. I tried to be patient. Spencer was deep in the process of elimination and contending with incoming fog obscuring his view.

My Swarovski EL Range binocular provided precise ranges and gave me something to do besides pester Spencer. I ranged the other two big rams—180 yards. I adjusted my turret and waited. They grazed. I ranged—205 yards—adjusted and waited. He told me not to shoot but to focus on a particular ram. I ranged—240—adjusted and waited. The rams continued to graze away from us. Minutes seemed like hours. I ranged—260 yards.

At 275 yards, I told Spencer, "We can walk away if you are uncomfortable making the call. I've proven that I can do this, and that is what I came for." In part, I lied. I wanted to kill a ram. The proof that I was capable of sheep hunting was standing 275 yards away.

After minutes more of silence, Spencer told me, "Don't shoot, but focus on the one with the hitch in his step, quartering away with his head down."

I ranged—275 yards—adjusted and focused. "Take him," Spencer said.

Bang, replied my Ruger .30-06.

I saw the ram fall. It was 6:45 p.m. on the 10th day of the most physically and mentally challenging hunt of my life.

I owe thanks to a lot of people, but most of all I thank my wife, who supported, encouraged and put up with me. I am thinking that our 30th anniversary next year is going to involve a big trip that doesn't include hunting. *ah*

Do you have an exciting, unusual or humorous hunting experience to share?

Send your story (800 words or less) to americanhunter@nrahq.org or to American Hunter, Dept. MH, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA. 22030-9400. Please include your NRA ID number. Good quality photos are welcome. Make sure you have permission to use the material. Authors will not be paid, and manuscripts and photos will not be returned. All material becomes the property of NRA.

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